

Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

September 11, 2000 www.macleans.ca \$4.50

MARGARET ATWOOD
An Intriguing Family Saga

TED ROGERS
The Blue Jay Play

MARNIE McBEAN
Olympic Heartbreak

New Might on the Right

How social
conservatives
are changing
Canada

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From the

Editor

Clear choices for the next election

The conservatives at Canada are on the march, not for Clark Conservatives, who are regressing, nor pragmatists. No, the movement now belongs to the right-thinking people who are supporting Stockwell Day's Canadian Alliance. Although the Liberals still enjoy a comfortable lead in national polls, the Alliance threat has risen to a major

There is nothing quite like a loosening executive to turn Liberals into crass pragmatists. In the 1970s, as Canadian nationalism flourished, the party of Prime Trudeau adopted the NDP's capacious policies. First, came the controversial Foreign Investment Review Act and, later, the National Energy Program. Then Jean Chretien vowed that, if elected prime minister, he would abolish the infamous GST and reopen the free trade agreement. He has done neither.

Now, it is the reverse on the right. Last week, the Prime Minister appeared ready to zip up his Red Book policy of using half of any budgetary surplus for debt reduction and six cents and 50 per cent for program spending. At the rate the federal government is raising its revenues, the surplus for the

fiscal year ending next spring could be a staggering \$30 billion. A formula that causes the country to spend half of a spiralling upsurge on new programs is wide open to attack from the right, and Chretien knows it. Besides, Alberta, the heartland of the Alliance, is poised to wipe out its accumulated debt, possibly in the next three years, and the Alliance has made tax cuts a priority plank.

When the next election is called, is it possible there won't be any real difference between the Liberals and the Alliance? Unlikely. But both parties are now involved in internal struggles that will determine their general principles. Will the Alliance move to the centre? Will the Liberals move to the right?

In the Alliance, the debate has been sparked by social-conservative candidates who are challenging strong MPs elected as moderate Reformers. Part of a trend explored in this week's cover story (page 18). And Finance Minister Paul Martin has become the rallying point for fiscal conservatism in the Liberal caucus who fear a spending binge.

Historically, the Liberals have always done better in elections when they

moved to the left. But with the polls showing that Alliance support is increasing, deserting the small centre might prove risky for the Liberals. The reason the Conservative vote has collapsed and surveys indicate that more Conservatives would switch to the Alliance than to the Liberals.

Still, it is difficult to see that even Chretien Liberals can abandon some historic party traits that distinguish them from the Alliance pro-choice on abortion, no capital punishment and a central role for the national government in areas like health care. Day, on the other hand, steadfastly advocates devolving power to the federation and informants on issues like abortion and capital punishment. When the parties sort out their internal differences, it is likely that Canadians will face clear choices. It promises to be a watershed election for Canada.

Robert Lewis

robert@canwest.ca to comment
on From the Editor

Newsroom Notes

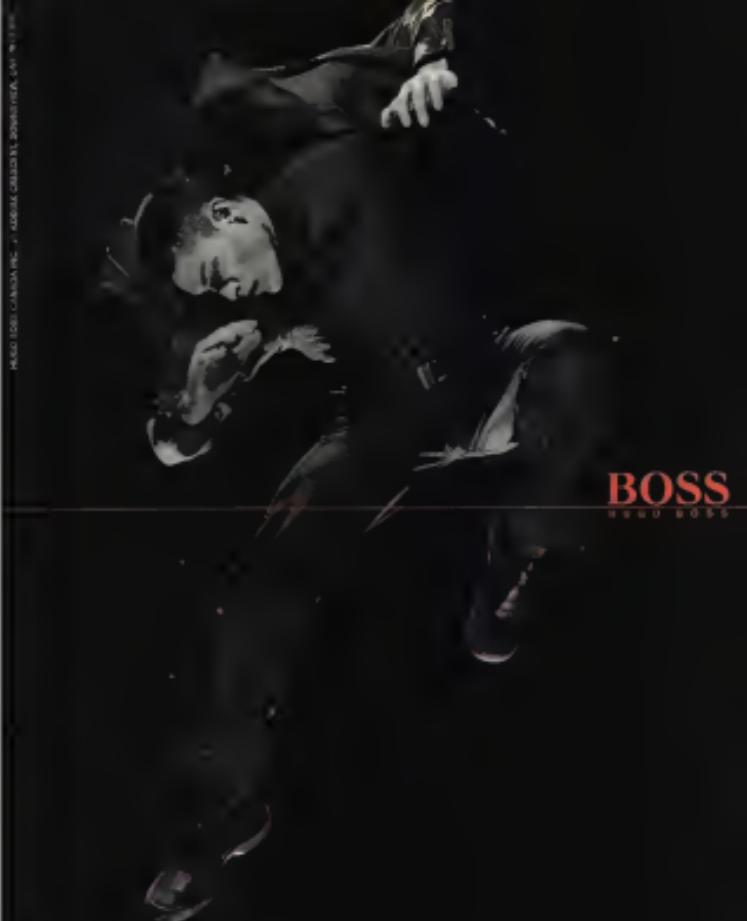
Summer work

There were mixed feelings last week at the annual farewell lunch for *Maclean's*' summer interns. They seemed to leave with bittersweet for a new year, leaving behind a host of good impressions—and new friends. This year's crop included Vancouver's Carina Glynn-Morris, 19, a Queen's political science major who did research for the



Jennifer Whalen, Brown, Anna, friends
annual university-ranking issue. Lisa Whalen, 25, earned her keep at a regular researcher-reporter, as did fellow

Western grad, John Lewis, 23. She returns to complete her degree in journalism at Ryerson, while Anna plans to begin M.A. studies at the University of Toronto. Those may be part-time choices; he has an interview for a day job at *Maclean's* coming up. Darren Brown, 20, of Simcoe, Ont., had numerous pictures published while he worked in the photo department. He heads back to Loyola College in Belleville, Ont., to complete a photo-journalism program. We are grateful to our outstanding class of 2000.



The Mail



Toronto anti-poverty protest: disparity

Rich and poor

Your insightful and well-researched article "The wealth gap" (The Sunday, Aug. 20) triggered my memory about a trip to Hong Kong years ago. Upon my return home, I told friends that it was extremely bonding, but these seemed to be only the very rich and very poor with no middle class. Your story, in no uncertain terms, illustrates that this is exactly the direction Canada is heading. Poignant, isn't it?

David L. Garside, Toronto
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"The wealth gap" was a fine piece of writing. However, the complex and fit most squarely into the stereotype of winners and losers. The people who

were suffering were all single mothers. The survivors are a mix of under-30 computer whiz kids. Are there no men who have lost jobs and are struggling to feed their families? Are there no women who are unemployed? And is there nobody out there who has the computer genius who is amassing piles of money?

Joan Evelyn Gauthier, Port Hope, Ont.

The root causes of most of the revolutions of modern times have been poverty and hopelessness. If this disturbing trend to increased income disparity continues, it will inevitably lead to similar social disorder in this country, whether the wealthy like it or not. You cannot marginalize a large and growing segment of the population and not expect it to react.

Tom Wilkesman, Vernon, B.C.

In answer to your question, "What happens to medicine and public education if the debate 20 per cent opt for private health care and schooling?", this will leave more funds and services for those who opt for public health care and schooling, since the richer 20 per cent still support those as well.

Harmon Dent, Ignace, Ont.

Canadian strength'

As writer John Baldwin Saul eloquently explains in "Reflections of a Swiss Twin," the art of dialogue—the art of accommodating more than one point of view—has been a Canadian strength, built to foster Baldwin and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine (two leaders in Upper and Lower Canada who believed in peaceful co-existence and were able to work together to achieve responsible government late in the 1840s). It was a pleasure reading

Storms of the mind

I was disappointed by the slant of your article on doctors and depression, and the suicide of Toronto Dr. Sumner Kellinger Johnson ("So much to live for," Health, Aug. 28), not that the problem of doctors self-diagnosing does not need to be addressed, but that it is certainly not the only question raised by that tragedy. There is the question of the availability of psychiatric care. And the most thought-provoking issue, the incredible power of the mind. That someone with Kellinger Johnson's background and training could be overwhelmed with thoughts of suicide, and that the power of those thoughts could be so great that she was not able to help herself, even to get help, should be telling us something similar to what terrible storms and earthquakes tell us—that in spite of our technology and knowledge, we are less in control of many things in this world than we, in our hubris, would like to think.

Heather Atkin, Guelph, Ont.

Anthony Wilson-Smith's meditation on our relationship with the United States ("A new kind of patriotism," Aug. 20) such meetings of minds are required as abundance as we face the global challenges of the next century.

Brian Rutz, Langhorne, Ont.

DNA truths

"Speaking for the dead" (Entertainment Notes, Aug. 28) makes an incorrect reference to the "1994 DNA test that established the fact of the Russian Imperial family's existence 76 years earlier." That reference should read: "DNA test that established the fact of the seven members of the Russian Imperial family." Those tests also proved that two members of the family, the Czar and only son of his daughter, are still missing. The report states that this would support accounts indicating that two bodies were buried or buried separately. Alternatively, two individuals may have survived the massacre.

John Macdonald, North Vancouver

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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Overture

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Edited by Anthony Wilcox-Smith
with Shonda Drost

Over the Border

They say, 'God bless, firefighters'

At a campsite foreground in Hazelton, B.C., nearly 1,000 one-person tents have been set up for evading firefighters battling some of the worst blazes in history. Last week, at least 140 were kept longed in Canada. In total, more than 200 Canadian firefighters from across the country have been called south of the border—and over the past month, their toils have saved homes and protected communities by diverting fire away from populated areas. **Karen Crawford**, 42, a fire-management technician from Perry Sound, Ont., is involved in second crew in the Shalasho region of Montana. He described the situation to *Amateur Editor* Shonda Drost.

All around, the fires are still burning out of control; it's going to take weeks to put them out. Some of the Canadian units used to the steep terrain and high mountains. My legs are killing me. And there's only water there is like, and this is a drought. Back home, we have three- and four-person crews using pumps and hose. We would use our half-inch nozzles and just pound the fire with water. Here, they have 30-person crews using hand-shovels. You have to build a breaker line around the fire edge by digging down to mineral soil. The soil is supposed to stop the advance of the fire. But if the blaze is burning on the tops of 100-foot ponderosa

pine and Douglas fir, then it can jump the lines pretty quick. On my previous trip, we had to pull back and retreat from the fire for six or 10 days. It was so erratic. All you can do is watch. I spent two weeks there and we didn't accomplish anything. But we were eventually able to move it west of a canyon road and south of another road and contain it in that area. A lot of structures were saved. Now our fire has died down and we're putting out hot spots—logs, driedwood and underground roots that are still burning. Yesterday, I worked with a team of mules. They pulled two miles of hose and saved the guys from lighting up and down the hills. It's interesting country; we've seen elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer and even happened upon a mountain lion.

The people are great. There are signs everywhere saying, 'Thank you, firefighters.' 'God bless, firefighters.' 'Good work, firefighters.' But they're confused by our uniforms. American firefighters wear green and yellow. Our crews wear orange coveralls, and in a lot of states that what prisoners wear. So people are saying, 'Ooh, they must have an inmate crew down here.' It's funny; we definitely stand out."



O'Neill is out!

and finance, Malcolm Knight, Royal Bank executive, and deputy health minister David Dodge. Nine insiders say Dodge is the favourite, thanks to backing from his minister, Allan Rock, and good relations with both Paul Martin and Jean Chretien—a remarkable achievement these

days. Dodge was MacNeil's deputy until 1997. Meanwhile, McClellan appears to have dropped out of contention, while Bank of Montreal outsider Tim O'Neill is newly mentioned in high circles. But Dodge remains favoured—with strong backing on Bay Street as well as in Ottawa.

Overheard

Dodge's city?

Mark some well-known names in and out of the ever-shifting race to succeed Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen in January. Until recently, ranking contenders were the senior deputy governor and origi-



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'I'm Joe, a blue lobster'

The Post and Globe: now's the pity! The PM,
how witty! A Tory lobster, the rusty-gritty!
And Toronto: nothing pretty!

♦ Politicians' kissy fits: Jean Chrétien calls Stéphane Dion "a headwater" and "Bleu-vel." Dion says PM is being "hypocritical." That disgraceful behaviour is sure sign of a coming election.



Lobsters: About one in every three million is colored blue. Last week, a specimen from Nova Scotia was rescued from near-extinction and given new life. Sorry, hope yet for Joe Clark!

- **Handheld computers:** It's their turn to be struck by a virus. Make a note of that—if you still can.

◆ **Newspaper wars:** First, *The Globe and Mail* runs feature knocking *National Post*. Then the *Post* runs feature knocking the *Globe-Kirkland*, who need

Toronto: Our self-proclaimed "world-class" city is among final five contenders to host '08 Olympics. To win, it'll need a world-class Army

◆ **Marnie McBean** A back injury will keep rowing great out of Sydney Olympics. But after three gold medals, at time we say thanks.

Seams and Flap-flaps

The old lost-luggage routine

The request seemed straightforward. The caller wanted Dr. Mohamed El-nasr, president of the Canadian Islamic Congress and a computer engineering professor at the University of Waterloo, to intercede via fax from Saudi Arabia to Canadian top Muslim business leaders. The caller spoke Arabic, claimed to represent the assa-



About such back-to-school blues, students need lots of encouragement.

Listen up—and pay up!

So you think inflation is a thing of the past? Not if you're a Canadian university student. As students head off to campus, a look at the price of which fees have risen in respective provinces over the past decade, as rendered by Statistics Canada.

| Province | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | % change |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| British Columbia | \$1,727 | \$2,520 | +45.8 |
| Alberta | 1,244 | 3,541 | +266.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,528 | 3,304 | +118.6 |
| Manitoba | 1,415 | 2,873 | +103 |
| Ontario | 1,853 | 3,871 | +100.2 |
| Quebec | 992 | 1,888 | +110.4 |
| New Brunswick | 1,885 | 3,518 | +85.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,840 | 3,485 | +89.1 |
| New Scotia | 1,843 | 4,408 | +125.8 |
| Newfoundland | 1,344 | 3,306 | +145.5 |
| Canada | 1,482 | 3,278 | +125.8 |

In Quebec, fees for both in- and out-of-province students are included in the weighted average calculation.

igious International Islamic Bank and knew all about Elmeray and his organization. He was told someone would call on a serial at Tooroochans Garage about an hour ago. On the next day, Elmeray received another call, saying the group was stranded in London and their luggage, with credit cards and traveler's cheques, had been shipped abroad. Could he send \$3,000? Elmeray agreed to have his credit card and when they inquired on cash—and the contact number they gave him proved to be phony—he realized he was being conned. "He was in their insurance," he said.

and Elmyra, "I would call a friend or relative, not a stranger."

Ehsan was later sold by other Muslims, who related similar stories, that members of Canadian Islamic community as being targeted by anti-Islamists. But they may be sorry they sold Ehsan. He was part a warning in the *Friday Shabbat*, a publication produced by his association that reaches some 250,000 people worldwide, including 160,000 Canadians. "The cult used Islamic religious phrases," said Ehsan. "It was very convincing."

TOM FERRE



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Over to You



Hélène Katz

Walk a mile with my eyes

You wouldn't want me behind the wheel of a car. Especially not your car. I have a visual impairment and can't see clearly for more than a few feet in front of me. That's why you should be thankful that I don't have a driver's license. But this is one of the few things I can't do. I still get up in the morning, work as a reporter, buy groceries and live up at the bank. But throughout my day, I'm constantly adapting to a world created for people who see better than I. Take elevation, for example. In order for me to get off on the right foot, I count as the numbered lights go off above the door — because the numbers themselves are too far for me to see. This method is no means foolproof. That's where I get a little impromptu exercise running up or down the back stairs.

Most people don't think of me as having a disability because the word conjures up images of someone in a wheelchair. The vision problem I was born with can't be fully corrected with glasses or contact lenses — I often wear contacts for going around and a pair of glasses on top of the contacts when I'm reading. The advantage of being in my position is that people don't make assumptions about what they think I can or can't do. Problem is, people don't tend to realize just how much energy I expend adapting to a world that wasn't designed for me. While I'm able to adjust to most situations, there are times when I can't. Then the responsibility shifts to those around me.

More than 10 years ago, in Ireland, I set out on a 56-km cycling trip with six people. I had just run at a youth hostel. It soon became obvious that cycling was not only difficult for me, but also dangerous. My eyes were busy looking for bumps and holes in the road, bushes to the side and the pack of cyclists ahead. I

could manage if cars passed at long intervals, because it meant I only had to concentrate intensely for a moment. But when a series of cars passed me, I had to get off my bike and walk.

Our group split into two paces. Four people sped ahead while two others stayed back and cycled slowly with me. When we stopped for lunch, I told Maria, one of the two cycling with me, how bad I felt as I was keeping her from riding with the others. Her response was simple: "My user has diabetes and is losing her sight. I think it's our responsibility to make sure that she is included in everything we do." For her, adapting to someone else's disability was second nature.

The rest of the group eventually agreed with her, though nothing was said. Over lunch they looked at a map, trying to find a shorter route to make the trip easier for me. When Patricia, another member of the group, said she would go ride back to the hotel instead of completing the trip, I realized I had an alternative option. Rather than making the decision for me, they gave me a choice I decided to ride back. To this day, I'm still touched by the way they tried accommodation me without sacrifice, though it was a perfectly common occurrence. I wish more non-disabled people were as thoughtful.

Although I'm unable to give cycling a shot, I still haven't figured out how to do — the added freedom and independence is too good. But there is one advantage when I'm out with friends. I go as the designated driver.

Hélène Katz heads the division of National Television May be sent to: overton@rcinet.ca or in fax at (613) 239-7739. Bit cannot respond to all queries.

Overture

PASSAGES

Appointed: Giuliano Zuccarelli, who is known to Canadian pre-crime fighters as the godfather of organized crime, was sworn in as a commissioner of the RCMP.

The 52-year-old Italian immigrant, who grew up in Montreal, has spent most of his 26-year career heading up criminal investigations in Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. Zuccarelli, the first non-native to hold the top post in the force, most recently became the Mounties' first deputy commissioner for organized crime. His appointment as commissioner is widely viewed as a sign that the RCMP will intensify efforts in such areas as fraud and money laundering, and cross-border white-collar and organized crime. He replaces Philip Munro, who is retiring.

Died: Quebec feminist and labour activist Les Roback, 96, died in New York City and Europe during her 20s, studying art and literature. In 1931, she joined the Communist party in Germany, birthplace of the rise of Adolf Hitler. The next year, she moved to Montreal, where she managed a Marxist bookshop. In 1937, she led a massive strike of 5,000 textile and garment workers — one of the first battles for workers' rights within the province. She later helped lead the country's infantile movement. Equality at home in Quebec's English- and French-speaking communities, she was named to the Order of Quebec earlier this year by Premier Lucien Bouchard. Roback died from injuries sustained in a mount fall at a summer home in Montreal.

Hired: The CBC named Jed Darling, a 19-year veteran in the television production business, as the new executive producer of *Hockey Night in Canada*. Darling, 37, worked part



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Passages

time on *HNIC* from 1981 to 1986 while attending what is now Ryerson Polytechnic University. He is an experienced producer of CBC Olympic coverage and is currently executive producer for this year's Sydney Games.

Ordered: Daryl Neufeld, the Vancouver musician who unsuccessfully sued singer Sarah McLachlan for copyright infringement, must now pay her legal bills. Before the trial, McLachlan's manager made Neufeld a settlement offer worth 20 years of his salary. But Neufeld refused, and his claim that he wrote some songs on McLachlan's debut album was later rejected. Now the B.C. Supreme Court has ruled that Neufeld, who filed for bankruptcy in April, must compensate McLachlan to the tune of \$250,000.

Dieci: Known as the "Black Moon," former prime minister Lyndon Pindling, 70, led the Bahamas to independence from Britain in 1973. He helped found the country's Progressive Liberal Party in 1953, in opposition to the mostly white United Bahamian Party. Elected prime minister in 1967, he passed policies that allowed for greater access to education, creating a large black middle class. Although claims of bribery and irregularities in drug trafficking led to his party's defeat in 1992, they were never substantiated. Pindling died in Nassau of prostate cancer.

Granted: A Calgary judge granted American actor Dennis Hopper an absolute discharge on a marijuana possession charge. Hopper was arrested at the Calgary airport last October, when he had flown in to make a movie—and ran into a vigilante dog who sniffed out two film canisters containing 12 grams of pot. Lawyer Edward Greenman pleaded guilty on Hopper's behalf; he argued that in real life Hopper, 64, is not the stereotyped biker he played in the 1969 cult classic *Easy Rider*. The judge's decision leaves Hopper with no criminal record and, in turn, the actor made a \$1,000 donation to a Calgary AIDS hospice.

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Editorial Update

Maclean's covers the Olympics



This September, as Sydney prepares to play host to the 2000 Summer Olympics, Maclean's is preparing to send its own team of veteran Olympic Columnists—Sports editor James Dawson, author, chef Andrew Phillips and photographer Peter Degg will be on hand throughout the Games to capture both the events at the finish line, as well as the diversity that unfolds behind the scenes. And, columnist Alan Fotheringham plans to draw his own beat on the Olympic spectacle. Their updates, observations and insights will also be featured on www.macleans.ca.

Maclean's coverage of the Olympics begins on September 11 with the publication of a 23-page plus report, featuring a comprehensive profile of Canada's team in Sydney and an authoritative guide to the Games.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

The PM's bully pulpit

In *Christien: The Will to Win*, Lawrence Martin's terrific book about Jean Chretien's early life, he tells a revealing story about his subjects formative political years. In 1961, Jean Chretien was fresh from studying law at Quebec City's Laval University, where, as Martin writes, he "was thoroughly exposed to nationalist gospel from so many of his friends that he could hardly help" flinging with that side. Ourselves and even Marcel Chaput had just been fired for writing separate views, and one night Chretien, as Martin describes it, "defended Chaput, and by extension the sovereigntist movement." He continued until a federalist friend sent him home, saying: "You don't even know how to speak English. You've hardly ever been in English Canada. Why don't you learn something before you go talking through your hat?" Chretien was initially furious, but eventually calmed down and returned to his federalist views.

It's fascinating to consider, 35 years later, what an older, more experienced Chretien might do if confronted with such behaviour today from another. The evidence suggests he'd try even a temporary bypass of federalism was unconstitutional, and the offence should be cast out from the Liberal party forever. When he made last week to news that two former Bloc Québécois MPs have renounced sovereignty and joined the Canadian Alliance, "A separation cannot be defended," the PM said. "He can only be defended." If you raised the point, he added that "Tremay has taught us how dangerous it is to try to settle separations."

By that measure, since Chretien once took the side of separation, he can't be trusted. Neither can Sports Minister Dennis Coombs nor Unity Minister Stephane Dion, who both supported sovereignty in the 1980 referendum, or MP Yves Charbonneau, a former high-profile union leader and sovereigntist who supported the Parti Québécois up until 1983. But if they were all to be cast from the Libs on account of their neo-nationalist logic, they'd at least have lots of new friends to hang out with—the 49.5 per cent of Quebecers who voted Yes in the 1995 referendum. By Chretien's reasoning, logic, none can be rehabilitated—but that deserved fine is to be hit over the head at every opportunity by Ottawa.

The PM would follow his logic to such a conclusion, of course, because happily only so Quebecers who want to play for another federalist team. But you get the gist of what, in class, will be a key part of Liberal election strategy: they can win more votes in Quebec under Chretien, so they won't try to undermine the handful the Libs are playing; consider some important distinctions about the way that Stodwell Day and the Alliance took in welcoming ex-Bloc MPs Richard Bélisle and Néle Leblanc. Bélisle will be crossed over

because "what people want is a reconciliation with the rest of Canada—to be a part of Canada," while Leblanc said "the vast majority of Quebecers do not really want Quebec to separate." And, said Day, in a statement more consonantable for Quebec than for grammar: "I have never, nor will I, seek a political coalition with the Bloc." The converts are talking about working, for federalism and, by inference, a prosovereignty Win over some more voters like that, and serious talk of another referendum might disappear entirely.

But that, come to think of it, wouldn't suit the Liberals, so long as they're setting themselves up as the best cops of the federation. Still, they take a much rougher game than they did for all the rhetoric about refusing to "under" Quebec voters, that's precisely what they do in tangible terms. When the *National Post* earlier this year analyzed spending by the federal Translational Jobs Fund and Canada Jobs Fund programs between 1996 and 2000, it found Quebec received more than twice as much from the programs as any other province. The P.M.'s riding received more money than the entire provinces of Alberta, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

But the *false bravado* doesn't stop there. Consider how the PM literally called on Lucien Bouchard last week to hold another referendum—somehow forgetting that the last one gave Chretien the greatest sense of his political life. And check the dismissive snarl in which the PM declared that "if you want to have a new round of Meech, you might wait for Stodwell Day." Actually, a local federalist Quebecer—most of whom think the Meech Lake accord would have burned separately once and for all—may be tempted to do just that.

Quebec is easy to pick on, given its violent perennial congressional ditching and Lucien Bouchard's habitual outrage at everything Ottawa does. But the province still has a final say in the Constitution, and no prime minister should be gloating about that. It's particularly startling to see a prime minister from Quebec mock a political leader from elsewhere in Canada for trying to defer decisions.

There's no doubt that some Alliance policies would dramatically reshape Canada—starting with the massive decentralization of power to the provinces that Day proposes. That deserves an informed public debate, which Day appears ready to engage in. But the Libs so far prefer to wage a crudely divisive campaign that will pit English Canada against Quebec, and subject Quebecers to a loyalty test about not only present but past beliefs. It amounts to a question that starts with the phrase: "Are you now or have you ever been . . ." and no one should like where that takes us. For years, critics in Quebec have called the PM a bully, but few people elsewhere understood why. Now we know.

A Lingering Trauma

Two years later, grieving relatives share painful memories of the Swissair crash with Nova Scotians who comforted them

By Sherri Adenshead in Peggy's Cove

European business executive Ian Shaw was used to traveling the world, but he drove his car on a sweltering Nova Scotia road on a September day two years ago until it ran out of steam. Shaw's only daughter, Stephanie, 23, had been returning home to Geneva from a holiday in New York City when her travel plans changed. After being rescued onto another plane, she was among the 229 killed when Swissair Flight 111 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on Sept. 2, 1998, 13 km off Nova Scotia.

Shaw—whose body had just stowed a watch company back home—finally reached the spot where the MD-11 had crashed into the waves of the Atlantic. It was then he decided to change his life. "The fog lifted so I crossed the hall and suddenly everything was blue on the sea and I realized my world had ended as I knew it."

Personal tragedy took Shaw to Nova Scotia that day—and two years later, he is living no more than 15 km from the crash site. After a lifetime accumulating things, he couldn't bear to carry on the way he had before the disaster. So a year ago, with only his favorite classical music CDs and books, he left Geneva and opened Shaw's Landing, a seafood restaurant in tiny West Dover, four kilometers east of Peggy's Cove. "It's the right place," the Scottish-born 63-year-old said last week, referring to the compassion Nova Scotians have shown. "It isn't a matter of concern. It has been a matter of survival."

The Swissair crash remains a devastating event for many from the families of the victims, to the fisherman who cau-

shed tears at the site for survivors, to the local volunteers and military personnel who took part in the grueling salvage operation. And the crash remains particularly perplexing for investigators who are still trying to determine exactly why the MD-11 went down. Last week, the Hull, Que.-based Transportation Safety Board released a report saying it does not know what started an electrical fire on the cockpit. Before the crash, co-pilot Urs Zehnermann had reported trouble on the cockpit as regional air-traffic controllers in Moncton, N.B. After descending to land in Halifax, Zehnermann guided the jet in a U-pattern over St. Margarets Bay to dump fuel and reduce altitude. At 10:34 Atlantic daylight time, he declared an emergency and at 10:30, the jet plummeted into the Atlantic, drowning into two million pieces.

The impact continues to be felt. About 115 people returned last Saturday to two memorials around along St. Margaret's Bay. They also had a private dinner with residents who helped recover the bodies or performed simple acts of kindness, such as finding them sandwiches and tea. Several others scoured out personal effects, so that, like Shaw, they could be near their loved ones' resting place. "It's a terrible beauty for them," observed John O'Donnell, a Halifax military chaplain who helped bury four bodies of relatives at the accident's crash site.

One relative, Philip Baker, cycled for 30 days from Baton Rouge, La., to commemorate the deaths of his sister-in-law, Karen Muller, her husband, Denis, and their 14-month-old son, Robert. Baker said many of the families feel permanently grateful to the 1,600 Nova Scotian volunteers. "We now have an extended family," he said, "because of the people who helped and are still helping in the aftermath of the crash."

At \$50 million, the Swissair crash investigation has become Canada's most expensive. "It is turning out to be one of the longest, most complex investigations anywhere," says TSB spokesman Jim Harms. Investigators still don't know what happened during the six minutes after Zehnermann declared the emergency and the flight recorder stopped. They suspect the wing of the entertainment console may have caused the initial spark. But they will not speculate any



Saving debris during the salvage operation in 1998



Shaw at his West Dover restaurant: 'The goodness here is underestimated and good is important right now'

further and it could be another year before an answer is found. "Are we ever going to find all of the links in the chain? I don't know," lead investigator Vic Gaudet said when the report was released. Responded Barbara Freshfield, who lost her daughter, Toni: "I am grateful that they are taking their time to do a thorough investigation, but I haven't found their updates to really give us much information. We are hopeful that the final report will give us some idea of what happened that terrible night."

The mystery behind the crash has had a wide-reaching effect on the community. CTV will broadcast *Swiss Crash After Flight 111*, a fictionalized account of the crash starring Kim Cattrall, in October. Several Web sites receive up to 500 hits a day, especially whenever another plane crashes. Hundreds of families remain connected through memorial associations opening in the United States and Europe.

The tragedy remains all too fresh in Nova Scotia, as well. Some locals still receive counseling because of lingering trauma. The plane's horrific impact meant none of the remains downed from the water or washed ashore were recognizable. The medical examiner could only make identifications through DNA. "I see there are four people [in the

military] are back to work and they may never come back," said O'Donnell.

With the crash still stirring so much emotion, Swissair's insurance, Lloyd's of London, backed off plans in May to charge \$300 million in sunset fees in a multiyear steel tube. Lloyd's apologized to the families, who called the proposed fine "gross robbery." Many families are proceeding with legal action. More than 100 lawsuits seeking \$16 billion in damages are before U.S. courts. And last week, Swissair paid an undisclosed amount to 59 Freshfields who sought compensation because they could not fish in the crash-torn waters for a month. About 50 claims are ongoing.

Ian Shaw is part of a close-knit set, but dropped in. He has tried to blend into the Nova Scotia community where he lives (the wife of 30 years, Gudula, remains in Geneva). This year, he opened a post office in his restaurant for the residents of West Dover and he now employs eight people. His consulting, he says, is the "occasional hammer" where his daughter's ashes are scattered. Still, Shaw has not yet visited the memorial site overlooking the Atlantic Ocean where the names of all 229 are etched on a granite marker. "I can't go," he says, his voice breaking. "I am not strong enough yet to see her name written in stone." ■



Polar bear in open
water, showing
ecological concern

Canada Environment

Disturbing forecasts

Global warming could devastate northern habitats

By Mark Nichols

Working with environmentalists than in computers that simulate climate change, two scientists last summer decided to see what would happen to the world's national parks if global temperatures rise steeply in the coming century. The results were startling: "The 20 parks that would be most severely challenged," say Jay Malcolm, a University of Toronto forestry expert, "were all in Canada." A report published last week detailing the scientists' findings contained some disturbing forecasts for Canada and the world. It suggested global warming could ultimately transform 35 per cent of the earth's existing habitats, forcing northern regions the hardest. More than 60 per cent of habitat in Canada's north could shrink and van, forests—scorched by rising temperatures and parched by a lack of moisture—could die. As habitats dwindle, animal populations, including caribou, polar bears, Pacific salmon and freshwater mussels, could shrink or disappear. "Ecological resilience is building," says Malcolm, "but could destroy habitats and species."

They estimated that heat-trapping CO₂ in the atmosphere will rise during the 21st century to twice the world's level 30 years ago, raising average global temperatures by between 2° and 8° C.

Then they used the models to predict how rapidly known and other vegetation would have to shift their habitats to survive climate change. The answer: 10 times faster than they did when the glaciers retreated following the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. Challenges of that magnitude, the report concluded, could overwhelm habitats and "well likely result in massive species extinction."

Touring signs of change are already visible in the Arctic. The *New York Times* last week carried a widely publicized report on scientists aboard a Russian icebreaker slogging open water at the North Pole in July. The original report said it was the first time ice had melted around the Pole in an estimated 50 million years. But the *Times'* classification as open water has occurred at the Pole before. No other scientists have reported a thinning of the polar ice cap, and in the Canadian Arctic, warmer temperatures are already affecting polar bears and other wildlife.

After years of fractious talks, federal and provincial ministers will meet in Quebec City next month in an effort to hammer out a Canada's response to climate change. The obstacles to success are considerable. Ottawa will likely offer specific proposals, including possible funding for national programs to reduce fossil-fuel use. But some provinces—most notably Ontario—balk at battling global warming because they fear the economic cost will be too high. "Canadians have to step up the pressure," says Gary Scott, a spokesman for the Vancouver-based David Suzuki Foundation, "and let politicians know they want action." If the computer projections are right, the alternative could someday turn parts of Canada's northern realms into lifeless wastelands. ■



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Agreeing to compensation

Victims of Canada's tainted-blood scandal who contracted hepatitis C but are ineligible for the \$3.2-billion federal-provincial compensation package announced two years ago voted to accept a compensation plan from the Canadian Red Cross Society. (The government package excluded those infected before 1986 and after 1990—an estimated 7,000 people.) Of the \$79-million Red Cross deal, \$16 million will go to 75 people infected with HIV who until now refused to settle out of court with the Red Cross.

Job-hunters beware

The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the firing of a salesman who looked for another job with a rival company without informing his boss. In his ruling, Justice Stephen Bowen noted that Kurt Felker of Electro Source Inc., a Toronto-based sales agency for manufacturers of electronic components, "admitted that he did not deserve his full notice and attention to his duties" while pursuing other work. Felker failed to get the other job.

Another blood ban

Health Canada and Canadian Blood Services banned blood donations from anyone who lived in France for six months or more between 1980 and 1996. The move was spurred by fears that Cournoulé-Jakob disease, the human equivalent to mad cow disease, could enter via blood transfusions. There have been three documented cases of the illness in France and 79 in Britain, for which a Canadian blood ban already exists.

High-seas sex

A department of national defence survey of the navy suggests that shipboard sex is flourishing, in spite of military rules banning "fraternization." The poll of 826 respondents, conducted last year and released under an access to information request, was done to determine whether men and women should serve together in the restrictive quarters of the new submarines. Canada is acquiring "After moving on a mixed-gender ship," one respondent, "I know for a fact men and women become intimate."



The watery battle off Burnt Church

Two boats from the Burnt Church reserve were sunk and a third damaged during confrontations with fisheries officers off New Brunswick's Miramichi Bay. Native herders rocked rocks and bricks at the officers, injuring several. Later, Miramichi officials called for the resignation of federal Fisheries Minister Herb Shattock for refusing to meet with them to discuss aboriginal fishing rights.

A murder trial full of twists and turns

Change, but U.S. law forbids double jeopardy, so they then charged her with manslaughter.

Surprise! That trial got under way last week. Paul was not on hand. Instead appeared she was at home in St. John's on the advice of Canadian counsel. Peers declared her a fugitive, ordered her arrested, and invoked her \$300,000 bail. But when Paul appeared in court two days later, she testified that her father, Dr. Dev Amin, who is funding her defense as well as her living and travelling expenses, had forbidden her return to St. John's. Peers, at first incredulous, accepted her explanation. "I think she was acting more as a pawn of her father."

Good news in Wild Rose Country

Thanks to soaring oil and gas revenues, Albertans have become used to good fiscal news from their government. Last week, that trend continued as Premier Ralph Klein's Tories announced that the 2002-2003 fiscal year would probably feature a budget surplus of more than \$5 billion. Of that, \$4.5 billion will be channeled to paying down the province's \$12.5-billion debt. And reports that the province will likely give each taxpayer a \$300 rebate for high-energy costs, the government promised an announcement this week.

COVER

New Might on the Right

Emboldened by Stockwell Day,
social conservatives
are on the march

By John Geddes in Ottawa

Robin Richardson has divided his adult life between crunching the numbers and preaching the gospel. A former Bay Street bank and brokerage house economist, he turned his analytical skills to probing the evils of government debt

in the 1990s, for both the Fraser Institute, the Vancouver-based right-wing think-tank, and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the rabble-rousing Regina-based lobby group. But Richardson has convictions on more than balancing budgets and cutting taxes. In the early 1980s, after serving as a Toronto MP to Joe Clark's short-lived 1979 Conservative government, he took three years off to study theology at a small Kentucky seminary, and then relocated to British Columbia, first as a financial planner in Chilliwack and later as an evangelical pastor in Victoria.

In other words, Richardson is a one-man amalgam of the influence now surging inside the Canadian Alliance. He proudly claims a personal stake in the triumphs of conservative economic policy over the past decade. He's both a lipid Toey and a fundamentalist Christian—two key Alliance constituents. He knows where the Canadian right has come from and, at 58, he figures he's got one more chance to be part of where it's going. These days, he is plugged into a network of social conservatives, emboldened by Stockwell Day's victory in the first Alliance leadership race, who are trying to fight their way to an even bigger role in the new party. In some settings, bitter宗派争斗 fights have broken out between ar-ists, as they are known in the Alliance, and those who style themselves as the party's moderates. Richardson is trying to take down a big name—Keith Martin, the incan-

bent in the Vancouver Island riding of Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca. "It's a healthy thing," Richardson says about the skirmishes. "In my view, it's about organisational change."

Martin sees things differently. He angrily accuse Richardson of running a double campaign, a public one about economics and a more strident private one attacking Martin's pro-choice stance on abortion. "Doubt we're running on economic issues, which we agree are, and then slip one behind my back on moral issues," Martin said in an interview. Richardson dismisses his critics' complaint as merely "putting spin" on the real substance of the choice local Alliance members will make in the riding's Sept. 16 nomination meeting. "I'm certainly pro-life," he says, "but that's not going to be the decisive issue." Richardson says he is running mainly on his ideas for local job creation and areas like the dangers of big-money land-clearing settlements.

But he also fully accuses Martin of being disdainful of anti-abortion churchgoers who are active in the Alliance. Citing a news report in which Martin was quoted as saying "some evangelical Christian groups" are behind efforts to oust sitting Alliance MPs, Richardson charges: "He's basically attacking Christians." Martin responds that "as a Roman Catholic who grew up in a Catholic boy's school" he finds that allegation "personally offensive."

Beyond the skirmishes, though, Martin warns that the chal-

Protest in Kelowna, B.C., trying to shore up the Canadian Alliance as a base for anti-abortionists



ABORTION REMAINS THE MAIN ISSUE, but social conservatives argue that they stand for much more

long facing him represents a larger threat to the Alliance's election chances. "I really support the right of anybody to live," he said. "However, there is always a danger of being taken over by special-interest groups." Prime Minister Jean Chretien left no doubt last week that he will pursue the Alliance as a party already dominated by "backward, dangerous" social conservatives who want to deny women the right to choose on abortion. In a campaign-style speech in Winnipeg, where Liberal MPs had held a caucus meeting, in advance of the fall return of Parliament, Chretien also took aim at Day for tilting his tax policies for the wealthy. And he referred to the Alliance leader as "Blowell Day" and called the party the "abortion alliance" after reports that Day had recruited two former Quebec separatists as candidates. Day responded by denouncing the high ground. "I think you're seeing a government in a bit of a panic," he said, deriding Chretien's speech as "an old-style political ram."

Still, some Alliance members say they are worried that intensive feathering at the riding level could give Chretien more ammunition. The usual local meetings and assemblies are in play, but in at least a few cases these days won't also involve something bigger. The so-called think tank with Day in charge, the time is right to get serious about heating up the Alliance as a political base for their values, including staunch opposition to abortion. Others inside the party fear midlevel-of-the-road Canadian voters—the sort Liberal voters in their pastime—will be swayed off. "Our challenge is to maintain broad-based support that will represent Canadians generally," said B.C. Alliance MP Val Meroski, who last week fended off an anti-abortion challenger to secure the nomination in her South Surrey/White Rock/Langley riding.

Like Martin, Meroski came under fire over abortion—the former test issue for many social conservatives. "I don't believe

that abortion should be used for birth control," she said. Meroski adds, "But I don't believe a 14- or 15-year-old girl should be made a criminal because she's chosen that means to end a pregnancy." That sort of answer is not even close to the strict pro-life stand demanded by many active in the Alliance. But some savvy, younger-to-soon leaders insist they are taking a more measured, pragmatic approach than the all-or-nothing stance pro-life activists usually adopted in the past. "We're political realists," says Ray Reyes, 40, president of the Calgary-based Canada Family Action Coalition. "A lot of us, new social conservatives recognize we can't form a government on our own. We have to work with others to do that."

Many Alliance insiders view Beyer's CFAC, as the soonest group to watch—or watch out for. Formed 3½ years ago, it now claims to have close to 10,000 members. Some older groups that share the same theological roots, such as Focus on the Family and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, are charities. To keep that status for tax purposes, they are restricted from direct political action. But CFAC is a nonprofit group, and operates freely in the political arena. Officially it is non-partisan. But Beyer, a Pentecostal minister in Edmonton, took time off from CFAC to organize Families for Day, which threw substantial support behind the former Alberta minister in his winning leadership bid. Beyer estimates the organization signed up at least 6,500 new party members who voted for Day, about equal to his final margin of victory.

Beyer says CFAC is not directly involved in the current riding nomination wars, but the group's back-end-file members are encouraged to get active locally. Last week, the so-called won one and lost one. While they failed to sweep Meroski, they helped save Rob Andreis, the relatively unknown MP for Calgary West who got Beyer's personal endorsement. Andreis

Looking for an image change

Jason Kenney is getting tired of having his politics defined by his social views. As the Canadian Alliance's finance critic, and a former president of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Calgary MP voices why his economic opinions rarely get equal billing in the media with his anti-abortion stances and Catholic conservatism: "You can have a lifetime of economic credibility," Kenney sighs, "but as soon as people find out you go to church on Sunday and oppose abortion on demand, suddenly that defines your political personality."



Not that Kenney—who was chairman of Stockwell Day's leadership campaign and is now widely viewed as Day's closest adviser in the Alliance caucus—has ever hidden his convictions. But these days, Kenney says he is working flat out to try to put to rest the perception that the Alliance is a narrow coalition of white, conservative, western Christians. Actively involved in recruiting new Alliance candidates, Kenney vows that the new party will surprise the skeptics: "We'll have Jewish candidates, Muslim candidates," he says, "candidates from every conceivable ethnic background." And giving his party a new image could be just the thing for changing Kenney's own.

beat back a nomination challenge from Jocelyn Burgeon, a Conservative member of the Alberta legislature. Like Meroski, Burgeon faced boardroom opposition over her abortion stance: "It's a decision between a woman, her God and her doctor," she said in defeat.

Despite the focus on abortion in some nomination battles, CFAC's leaders maintain that theirs is from single-issue movement. In fact, Brian Bushfield, CFAC's executive director and co-founder with Beyer, says the coalition was created especially as an alternative to organizations like Campaign Life Coalition that make opposing abortion their prime objective. "We're much broader than that," Bushfield declares. "Pro-life is a small amount of the work we do. Our focus is on the global forces: religious freedom and democracy."

CFAC fought with other pro-lifers on the winning side on

Kenney (right); Beyer; gay rights advocates are concerned that top Liberals are spooked by the Alliance as they look to the next election



at least two skirmishes this year: standoffs on abortion. The group joined forces with like-minded organizations, including the anti-abortion lobby group REAL Women of Canada, to intervene in an Ontario court case to defend the right of parents to speak their children. A judge ruled in their favour, and against a group that was trying to ban speaking learned as child abuse. And CFAC has been lobbying influence at least some of the backbench Liberal MPs who pressured federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan to drop a plan to change the legal definition of marriage to include same-sex unions. McLellan move left gay-rights advocates convinced that top Liberals are spooked by the Alliance: "The Liberals caved in to the pressure that there would be a backlash," said Kim Vaizey, president of Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere. "I certainly think they can see the writing on the wall about the support the Alliance is going to get in the next election."

Expect that election to feature no come-out in force. Beyer says CFAC's model for political action is the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. The federation, founded in 1990, emerged as a tenacious voice in keeping lower-taxed, less-spending stances on federal and provincial election agendas.

And between campaigns, an office in the capitals of all four western provinces and Ottawa keep the pressure on. Beyer argues that just as the federation was on the right track when smart deficit-cutting earned public opinion to the right on fiscal issues, CFAC is positioning itself to take advantage of conditions that are opening for a similar shift on social questions.

Among the key issues that he contends might already have opened the balance last year's ruling by a B.C. judge who struck down the law banning possession of child pornography as a violation of the right to freedom of expression. The Supreme Court of

Photo: AP/Wide World

PHOTO BY JEFFREY D. STONE

DAY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOCIAL conservatism needs to broaden its appeal

Canada heard an appeal of the case brought by the federal government last winter, and its decision is pending. Even if the top court upholds the law, though, Beyer contends that the lower court ruling joined a lot of Canadians into wondering if widely held values are under siege, especially by activist judges. "People are ready to say, 'Enough is enough,'" he says. "It's very similar to where things were nine or 10 years ago on deficits."

The mood of contemporary Canadian conservatism has deepened, of course, than last year's court controversies or even the past decade's deficit battles. The Fraser Institute has been charting out a steady stream of reports urging free trade, lower taxes, privatization and low government since it was founded in 1974. Michael Walker, the institute's executive director, recalls it being dismissed in one early newspaper account as "an intellectual wing of the Ku Klux Klan." These days, much of the Fraser Institute's economic policy outlook is accepted as conventional wisdom, and the institute now has a social affairs centre monitoring right-wing prescription on issues from welfare to education. Walker sees no reason not to approach social matters with the same market-based philosophy the institute applies to the economy. "Human action is a human action," he says.

While the Fraser Institute has made Vancouver home base for many Canadian intellectual conservatives, writer and publisher Ted Bifield has established Edmonton as the centre of right-wing, popular journalism. His Alberta Report, revamped last year in a national magazine called simply the Report News-



Walker, Beyer (below): the Fraser Institute now has a social affairs centre dealing with issues like welfare and education

magine, was influential in forming early support for Preston Manning's Reform party. True to his reputation as a reliable weather vane for conservative winds, Bifield shifted his support from Manning to Day for the Alliance leadership race. His son, Tom, now editor and publisher of the Report, says Day's appeal stems from the way he bridges economic and social conservatism. "Stockwell, for some reason, seems to be the personification of both sides," he says. "They both come very naturally and sincerely to him."

Day's background does lend him undeniable credibility in both of the broad conservative camps. As a former treasurer in Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's government, he is firmly associated with the tax-cutting, government-shrinking, economic side. But Day is also a rock-ribbed social conservative, a born-again Christian and oncology preacher. He argues that those who believe in the fiscal conservatism of frugal government and lower taxes but think they can

A classic product of the Bible Belt

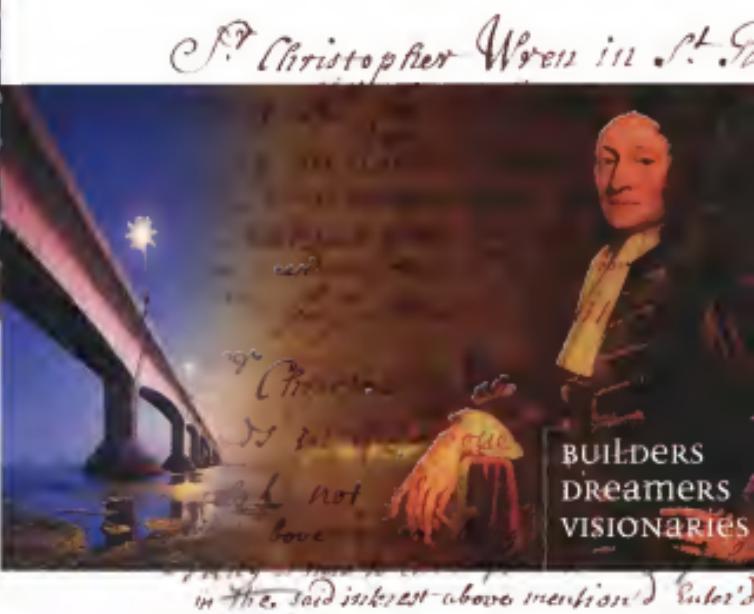
Roy Beyer credits the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission with turning him into the prominent conservative activist he is today. Back in the summer of 1987, the federal broadcasting regulator granted a licence to PayTV pay-per-view television in Canada—on the same day it turned down applications from four would-be religious broadcasters. Beyer, an evangelical pastor from Edmonton, was involved with one of those proposals. "I thought that was truly audacious of them," he recalls.



But what really surprised him was that church groups seemed willing to take the setback lying down. "It brought into focus

do" so Beyer took a leading role in founding the Canadian Family Action Coalition, which now boasts close to 10,000 members—and commands growing respect in Canadian Alliance circles.

Beyer, 40, is a classic product of Alberta's Bible Belt. Born and raised in Lethbridge, he studied to become a minister at Full Gospel Bible Institute in Estevan, Sask. But he knows that CFAC will mature into more than a political arm of evangelical churches. "The initial challenge was to get conservative Catholics and evangelicals to work together," he says. "In recent months, we've done more work with Muslims and Jews, realizing that these are key constituencies." If CFAC succeeds in building those bridges, it could become a new kind of force on the Canadian right.



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DAY AND OTHER CHRISTIAN SO-CONS are also reaching out to Jews and Muslims

peacefully co-exist with liberal social views are feeling threatened. "While many politicians have at least grappled fiscal reality, they have not yet anchored to our distinguishing social reality—but they will," Day said in a major speech on his brand of conservatism during the leadership contest. "The day they do, many of those fiscal-conservatives—but social-members will become disengaged. And when they do, they will find a ready home in the Canadian Alliance."

In the same key speech, delivered on April 28, Day also tackled head-on questions about how his religion relates to his politics. His strategists saw it as an issue he had to try to put to rest, coining the speech in advance, Day's name came up even compared to John F. Kennedy's famous line in

Houston on Sept. 12, 1960, defending the right of a Catholic to run for president: Day could hardly match Kennedy at his eloquent best, but he was undeniably impassioned. "As a conservative, I have no intention of making my religion someone else's law," Day said, but went on to add that he is "opposed to any suggestion that citizens separate themselves from their beliefs in order to participate in the government of their state."

That differs, at least in nature and arguably much more, from the position Chebrolle espoused last week. In an interview with the *Grease Gains*, Chebrolle said he keeps his religion "separate from politics," even though he still considers himself "a good Catholic" in his personal life. "Especially in a multicultural and multireligious population like ours," he elaborated, "the temptation of one group to impose its morality on others, it's always dangerous and you have to be guard against it." Chebrolle suggests that individual politicians must not allow their religious convictions to colour their political judgment. Day proposes more pragmatic controls on the possibility of a party imposing religious views. He has vowed that an Alberta government would not alter the law on the most divisive moral issues, including abortion, unless Canadians voted for change in a referendum.

Day has acknowledged that for social conservatives to widen its voter appeal it needs to broaden its base beyond conservative Christians. By advocating six weeks for religious schools, he has succeeded in impressing at least some Jews and Muslims, appealing directly to groups like the multi-faith Ontario Forum for Equality. Education Funding, Beyer says groups like his are similarly reaching out. As a sign of things to come, he points to close co-operation between CPAC and Shabbat on keeping books that introduce the concept of same-sex couples out of a Surrey B.C. day-care school. Not that Alberta so-cons are inclined to disguise the frankly Christian underpinning of their policies. "These values are not alien to our culture," declares Richardson. "From my reading of history, most of the Fathers of Confederation were Christians." And with that proud claim to represent reliable, old values—not the narrow, new threat their opponents see in them—Canadian social conservatives are on the march.



No holds barred on the Liberal side

Suddenly, everything around federal politics is clearer. After last week's meeting of the Liberal caucus in Winnipeg, the long months of speculation on whether Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is staying in or going must surely end. The Chrétiens who delivered that scorching attack on Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day were not a politico gathering ready to retire. And the rules of alliance plans to observe in battling Day became clear, too: no holds barred. Some Liberals had privately predicted that Chrétien would stick to core policy themes like health care and taxes. But his campaign-style speech in Winnipeg didn't stay away from more contentious issues—including abortion. Mocking Day's favourite image of the Alliance as a "freedom train," Chrétien said: "Opponents of a woman's freedom to choose have a seat on the freedom train. We Liberals believe in a woman's right to choose."

Alliance strategists were taken by surprise. "My understanding from my Liberal contacts was that they thought it was just too dangerous to pole-vault in on that very sensitive issue," said Calgary Southwest MP Jason Kenney, one of Day's closest advisers. "After all, a substantial

portion of the Liberal coalition is a traditional Catholic constituency." But one senior Liberal tactician said Day's promise to allow a vaguely defined "clerical's initiative" to prompt an abortion referendum was judged to be a fair target—as long as there was no hint of a direct attack on Day's evangelical fans.

But less controversial elements are likely to grow into the main themes in a Liberal election platform now taking shape. Michael Marnier, the official Liberal pollster, told the party's MPs in Winnipeg to focus on issues like reforming health care and cutting taxes. "They need issues that transcend partisanship and capture the national imagination," Marnier told MacLean's. Perhaps the best news for Liberals is that a booming economy promises to generate plenty of revenues to fund tax cuts, health spending and other new initiatives. Last week, Statistics Canada reported that gross domestic product grew by a robust 4.7 per cent annually in the year's second quarter—a timely reminder that good times are actually worth more to a government going to the polls than good strategy.

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Pushing the Pendulum

By Claire Hoy

Everyone has memories.

One of my best is of my late grandmother Maria Hoy standing during the service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Picton, Ont., and politely but firmly disputing a theological point made by the presiding minister.

This was an intercession, and often meant the service would last three hours or more. While I would have preferred to be splashing in the St. Lawrence River or reenacting the War of 1812 in old Fort Wellington, those Sunday mornings served in my practical introduction to the art of debate and taught me that pronouncements from authorities, in the pulpit or elsewhere, are not infallible. The only exception, of course, was God's word, although there, too, various interpretations of what He actually said often led to prolonged rancour.

My grandmother, of United Empire Loyalist stock, raised 10 children and was fiercely protective of both her family and her faith. She was no uneducated, dour, complacent woman of the time. She believed that "if you have something to say, say it," and that "The Ten Commandments were not written by a sheep." In her mind, they meant what they said.

In my mind, too, which I suppose is what makes me a social conservative, but to say so these days risks incurring the wrath of the secular elite. Why has this happened? Why has a bizarre wicked-to-love family above all, to believe in God, to believe that life itself assumes more than temporary meaningfulness? How did those who adhere to these traditional beliefs get pushed in status? Many people think it's a common consciousness on these issues, but is it really?

An Angus Reid/Globe and Mail/CTV poll of 1,500 Canadian adults in April found that 84 per cent of respondents said they believe in God, 67 per cent said their religious faith is very important to their day-to-day lives, and 66 per cent said the Bible is the inspired word of God. Yet despite this overwhelming confession of faith among Canadians, people who openly espouse faith-based views are routinely marginalized. To be a social conservative is to be labelled intolerant by self-declared champions of tolerance, many of whom are the least tolerant people I know. Having measured the art of discourse, their notion of tolerance often is as tolerant only what they personally find acceptable. For everything else, there's shared ignorance, um tolerance.

The Bible forms the foundation of our system of justice

and morality, but concerned efforts by secularists have made such convictions not only unfashionable to repeat, but in some cases illegal to pursue. The rationale of those who would impose their "liberal" views on society is not simply that the rest of us recognize the existence of other perspectives and lifestyles—which is fair enough—but that we applaud them or suffer dire consequences if we don't.

This confuses acceptance and agreement. They are not the same thing. I accept the sorry fact, for example, that every few narratives an unborn baby is aborted, but I do not agree with it. I even accept the notion that there will always be a few cases where abortion is a legitimate moral option, but I don't agree there are more than 100,000 cases a year where it is a legitimate

I accept that our unlearned and unacquainted Supreme Court judges—and other judges, too—are abiding their position by "sitting in" on their personal biases in many cases involving controversial social issues, particularly in the area of homosexual rights. Yes, a small percentage of Canadians are practicing homophobes, and nobody has the right to either harm them or advocate harming them. But I don't agree that homosexual relationships are the moral equivalent of heterosexual relationships. Nor, it seems, do the federal Liberals, since Justice Minister Anne McLellan recently crafted in law the fact that marriage is a heterosexual relationship between a man and a woman.

While I accept the notion that many Canadians have different points of view on social issues, I do not agree that those issues cannot ever be debated without trouncing people with charges of homophobia or sexism or dragging them before one-sided human-right cases whose idea of a fair trial is to declare the party guilty first, then force him to show why he is not guilty as charged.

Pendulum swing, however. In the mid-1980s, when Brian Mulroney's Conservative government began assisting pro-life government spending, the euphemism of "reaching from the two-worlds" was deriding. Now, even the Federal NDP—straying from the hymnbook of balanced budgets. The fight for fiscal conservatism has been won, at least for now. On the social side, she's been the opposite. Twenty years ago, it was common to debate issues such as abortion and homosexuality. Today, it's seen as questioning the Holy Grail. Yet opinion polls show considerable differences in public atti-



WITH THE FIGHT FOR fiscal conservatism won, social conservatives want to end the era of the secular elites

tudes over social issues. For years, however, non-liberal attitudes have been elicited by special-interest groups who have enjoyed the ear of the courts, the government and the media.

Enter Canadian Alliance Leader Stockwell Day, a man who has not been content into downing a cloak of political correctness at the mere sight of professional nice-kids wagging their collective fingers and frowning their world-wary brows at him. Common wisdom decrees that anybody who even thinks about these issues, let alone riffs about them, can never be elected, particularly in Ontario—an electorate, if memory serves, of over three million. Day's positions have led to numerous personal attacks, including the controversial *Maclean's* cover that asked the shoddy question "How scary?" judging by his performance in the polls so far, not very.

Critics accuse Day of being a religious nutcase—he is, after all, an evangelical Christian—who, like all religious people, wants to impose his or her religion on everybody. Day told me in an interview that as a minor cabinet minister in Alberta, "I didn't pass a law making Bible-reading mandatory in downtown Edmonton." He made the Bible, and is guided by it. Whether you do or not is of no concern to him.

What he is concerned about, however, is how Canadians feel about taxes. He has suggested referendums on abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. Imagine asking most Canadians if they are comfortable with the fact that Canada has no created law governing abortion? Are pro-choice

happy with the fact that, under the circumstances, a fetus can be aborted at the very last stage of seven or eight months? Do Canadians really oppose capital punishment for certain crimes? When were they ever asked?

Day wants to ask them, a sharp break from our tradition of leaving it up to the political, media, academic, judicial and social elites to tell us what is best for our souls. What is scary about that? I suspect that some of the positions I hold would lose in a referendum. But I'd rather have been asked and lost than have never been asked at all.

A recent *Globe and Mail* story about the ongoing over-Alliance negotiations touched on the B.C. riding of Nanaimo-Alberni, where sitting MP Bill Blaikie lost the nomination (and is appealing) to local chiropractor James Lunney. Bading president Leonard Melman says Lunney won when "a bunch of drunk people" voted for Lunney. The *Globe* story says Lunney "admitted" he recruited 90 new party members from his church. Why do they suspect that Lunney "admitted" this? Is it against the rules? Are church people not entitled to take part in the democratic process? Well, with the emergence of the Alliance, get used to it. And just not church people; it's all those Canadians who have been brainwashed for years by feelings of powerlessness to they would let the state tell them what to do and what to believe. My grandmother would have lived it. I'm looking forward to it myself.



*Protests at the courts
of Jakarta's Suharto*
(below) money, power
and corruption

simply goes free, the country may explode—and experts will use the resulting violence to advance their drive for outright independence. "The trial is symbolically important for Indonesia," said Jakarta-based analyst Adam Schwarz. "Both for the new government and its political development."

Suharto was driven from power in May 1998, by thousands of pro民主 students. Now, he is charged with laundering nearly \$800 million in state funds through seven charitable foundations he headed. Government investigators believe the money may represent a small part of an elaborate fraud in which Suharto diverted two percent of the country's enormous revenue and a percentage of the civil service and military payroll into his own pockets. If found guilty, he faces from 20 years to life in prison. But the millions of people who watched coverage of the court case on television were left hanging when the now-white-haired and frail Suharto failed to appear.

Only a few years ago, Suharto was welcomed in capitals around the world—at least by governments. (It was Suharto's presence at a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation countries in Vancouver in November 1997, that triggered human-rights demonstrations and the infamous pepper-spray incident.) Now, he spends his days at his sprawling bungalow in Jakarta, among other things, watching nature shows on a wide-screen television. Suharto is said to have suffered a stroke since his downfall. He has children, worried that news reports of his alleged crimes will trigger yet another massacre, hide newspapers from him. His lawyers say he suffers from amnesia and his speech difficulties. As a result, they said the court was unable to attend the hearings. Suharto is reported to have escaped trial last year, when then-President B. J. Habibie dropped the investigation into his former merits. So did Aburizal Bakrie, who in 1999 became the country's first democratically elected leader, renamed the case as part of his pledge to clean up corruption. Even so, in an attempt to appease the military, which demands pro-Suharto, Bakrie has proposed to pardon the former president if he is convicted.

Religious and political violence has also become rampant, claiming more than 3,000 lives since January 1999. Separatist leaders on Indonesia's impotent Moluccan, Salween and Irian Jaya islands, which comprise about one-third of the country's land mass, are demanding independence. Ironically, the start of Suharto's trial fell on Aug. 31, just as the former Indonesian province of East Timor celebrated the first anniversary of its autonomy. Analysts fear that if Suharto

Guards will have to wait a little longer for justice. Chief Judge

Lain Mulyana adjourned the proceedings until Sept. 14, while a team of doctors compiled a report on the former dictator's health. Prosecutors vowed to bring him to trial, but his absence in court only fuelled public perception in the nation of 197 million people that the legal system is thoroughly corrupt. Disillusioned, the public has increasingly taken the law into its own hands. A rash of vigilanteism has hit cities across Indonesia, with men beaten to death, bar fight victims set on fire. In Jakarta alone this year there have been more than 100 lynchings.



A lagoon in Fiji
anger and luxury

Trouble in paradise

A Canadian flees Toronto for Fiji only to see the country engulfed in racial tensions

In the popular mind, Fiji is the stuff of luxury: beaches, blue seas and green bananas. One winter's day in 1988, Toronto native Peter May could no longer resist the South Pacific archipelago's call. He soon found himself living, much as a native would, on a village by the sea. But the adyl did not last: on May 19, May was caught up in the racial violence that erupted when Fijian tribal leader George Speight took over Parliament and held the country's Indo-Fijian prime minister hostage. In the following report, May, 56, who has temporarily returned to Toronto, describes his odyssey and how his idyllic paradise was shattered.

The first thing managers ask me is how I ended up living in Fiji. My answer is almost a cliché—the one about the guy who landed in life in the city for a tropical paradise of palm-fringed beaches. I was that guy. My decision to leave in February 1988, came while driving down Teresia's Don Valley Parkway on a cold, drizzling morning, one of those winter days when a smear of brown slush defaces the windshield wipers and obscures the traffic ahead. I was 42, overweight and recently divorced. But nobody believed I would really quit my job at news director at CFGM radio, where I had worked for

15 years. "You're the guant on the wall here," said a female co-worker. "You'll die here."

My employer diagnosed my condition as burnout; my family said it was a reaction to my divorce; friends claimed I was going through a midlife crisis. But I was simply fed up, and set off with a pouchful of traveler's cheques for the fabled island of Fiji.

In 1874, Cakobau, Fiji's paramount chief, ended the hereditary Queen Victoria in return for naval protection against American freebooters who were trading firearms for whatever the natives had to offer. When he signed

the deed of cession, Cakobau believed the island would be returned to chiefly rule when Fiji received its independence, a contention that would be a source of future trouble as the ethnic makeup of the country changed. Because the British came to the island by treaty, they had no way of forcing Fijians to work. European property was unknown and Fijians had no interest in money. As a result, the British imported labourers from India to develop sugar cane plantations. Their children became the first Indo-Fijians by 1970, when Fiji became independent, native Fijians made up only half of the population. The country adopted a constitution guaranteeing multi-racial government—to the chagrin of Ryan nationalists.

I knew little of this history when I stepped off the emerald ferry in the small seafarers' settlement of Savusavu on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second-largest island. The town had a few hundred residents

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After the coup attempt, ethnic tensions continue to divide the country

and a single acre of sheepfarming, a spectacular caravanning show. Within hours, the Radni Sovosava, the wife of the paramilitary chief of Samosau, declared that I was her blood relative because, she claimed, I was related to an American whaler named Steven May who served on the island in the 1850s. As a result, I was treated as family. Two years later, I met Fifi, a beautiful 33-year-old with dark hair tumbling down to her waist. We settled down in an old plantation's house overlooking a lagoon. It was just a 10-minute stroll down the sand in a native village where fresh fish, crabs and lobsters were always available.

The next few years were like an endless summer, exceeding all of my childhood dreams. I watched whales frolic beyond the surf and often drank the local rumcoco, laced by lantern light with the village men while listening to stories of fishing and hearing wild boars with spears. I learned what it was to live where measured time does not exist and life follows the rhythm of the moon and tides.

I lacked for just one thing: someone I could converse with ready in English about the outside world. So I was glad to meet a man named "Bill," who had served for more than 20 years in the British army. I never paid much attention to his last name or anyone else, for in that tiny community one name was enough. We often talked about his world travels, but Bill also gave me a sense of the ethnic tension that simmered under the surface in Fiji. Bill knew that the Fijian world, like the Hawaiian, lost their language and culture. He believed the Indo-Fijians but he was aware in his heart that Fiji must be ruled by Fijians.

My life as a semi-recluse ended in



Coup leader Speight (right) and bodyguard; power play

1993 when I finally went to work teaching broadcasting to local journalists. In 1997, I moved to the capital city of Suva, on the main island of Viti Levu. On the surface, relations between native and Indo-Fijians seemed peaceful. But the election on May 19, 1999, of the People's Coalition government, led by Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's first Indo-Fijian prime minister, changed that.

Many Fijian nationalists could see scope Chaudhry's victory. The issue boiled over last spring, when George Speight and a group of armed rebels from the Fijian Army's Constitutional Warforce Unit entered the parliament buildings on the first anniversary of Chaudhry's election. They took the Prime Minister hostage, along with his cabinet and all but a few of the elected members of the People's Coalition government. I soon learned Speight was a bankrupt businessman who had headed the government-owned Fiji Hardware Corp and he was let go during a reorganization of the company led by Chaudhry.

Today Fiji remains divided and its export-dependent economy is in tatters. Even so, Ligon and Speight may soon be released. The Great Council of Chiefs, the last body holding any true authority in the nation, is reported to be considering universal amnesty for all the rebels. Now, I started to return to my shattered paradise. Perhaps I'll even get a chance to talk to my old friend Bill, and whether it was worth it. ■

they began arming windows in the heart of the Indian capital district. On the second day of the coup, some government MI6 agents in uniform for their freedom, Speight also tried to force the Prime Minister to step down. A gun was pointed at Chaudhry's head, but he refused to resign.

As the crisis continued, a rebel leader said reporters that Speight had only been invited to join the coup 48 hours before it took place. The command was actually a retired officer named Clinton Ligon, who remained inside Parliament with the hostage. I then received a phone call from a friend with startling news. She wanted to know why I had not tried to rescue Ligon. When I pressed that I did not know the way, she shouted me. "You do," she said. "He's your old friend Bill."

When the hostages, including Chaudhry, were finally set free on July 13, the army, which had declared martial law, arrested Speight and Ligon. A few days later, however, the men were arrested on new charges. During negotiations with their supporters, the army promised that any new constitution would guarantee that the offices of president and prime minister could be held only by native Fijians. And the last time I saw Ligon was on television on July 17. He was sitting in a car with a bandage covering a large gash on his forehead, smiling. Did he believe he had succeeded in keeping Fiji for Fijians—something he had promised to my ears?

Todays Fiji remains divided and its export-dependent economy is in tatters. Even so, Ligon and Speight may soon be released. The Great Council of Chiefs, the last body holding any true authority in the nation, is reported to be considering universal amnesty for all the rebels. Now, I started to return to my shattered paradise. Perhaps I'll even get a chance to talk to my old friend Bill, and whether it was worth it. ■

An alleged murder plot

Egyptian tycoon Mohamed Al Fayyad, who owns London's famous Harrods department store, filed a lawsuit against a half-dozen U.S. security agencies, including the CIA. Al Fayyad is trying to obtain documents that he believes prove his son, Dodi, and Diana, the Princess of Wales, were maimed in a car crash on Paris three years ago. The 67-year-old alleges that death was the result of a government conspiracy to keep his son, a Muslim, from marrying Diana. Al Fayyad's allegations come as he renewed his demands for British citizenship, something he has been repeatedly denied.

Life sentence for a skinhead

A German court convicted three Nazis of beating African immigrant Alberto Adriano to death and handed down tough sentences in an attempt to halt the rise of racially motivated attacks. Enrico Hillebrecht, 24, who killed Adriano 10 times in the head before leaving him to die in a park in the eastern German city of Dresden on June 11, was sentenced to life imprisonment. Two minors, both 16, were given nine years.

ETA claims responsibility

In a surprise announcement, the Basque separatist group ETA claimed responsibility for murdering four people in a series of terrorist attacks between May and July. The group's push for an independent state in northern Spain has escalated since it ended a unilateral ceasefire last December. ETA, whose Basque-language acronym stands for Basque Homeland and Liberty, is blamed for 800 deaths since 1968.

Military aid for Colombia

U.S. President Bill Clinton, ignoring a bomb scare, traveled to Cartagena, Colombia, where he offered the government a \$1.3-billion (U.S.) military aid package to help the country wage war against the cocaine cartels that control much of the country. Critics and the administration, which includes 60 helicopters, could lead to a war between Americans and Colombians drug traffickers.

A fire in the Moscow sky

Russia's Ostankino communications tower, at 540 m the second-largest free-standing structure in the world, was near collapse after a fire that lasted for 26 hours. The blaze burned through the top of the tower, which houses offices, communications facilities and restaurants. It damaged four lives and blocked out most of Moscow's television channels, triggering a national debate over Russia's crumbling infrastructure.

The fire at the tower, which was built in 1967 and is 13 m shorter than Toronto's CN Tower, was just the latest jolt to Russia. It struck as Russians were still recovering the loss of 118 million who died in an explosion at the nuclear submarine Kursk on Aug. 12 in the Barents Sea. After its own rescue attempts failed, the Russian navy had to appeal to the West for help because ours in its military budget had left it without equipment capable of rescuing the sailors. Russian



The Ostankino tower in flames decline

President Vladimir Putin, criticized for not responding quickly enough to the Kursk disaster, said the fire in the Ostankino tower symbolized Russia's decline. "This tragedy highlights the condition of the entire nation," he said. "Only economic development will allow us to avoid such calamities in the future."

Vietnam frees a Canadian grandmother

Ton Thi Canh, a 74-year-old Vietnamese grandmother who was arrested in 1996 with her daughter, Nguyen Thi Haip, at Hanói's Noi Bai airport for possessing 5.4 kg of heroin, has been freed. The pair were found guilty of trafficking. Nguyen earned the death penalty and was executed by a firing squad on April 24, while Thi Canh was sentenced to life in prison. Nguyen's body was quickly returned to the family in Hanói on Aug. 19. 250 and 10,000 other prisoners were released on Sept. 1 as part of an amnesty celebrating Vietnam's independence

You have flames'

A chilling exchange between crew and air traffic controllers, contained in a report released by French Air Accidents Investigation Bureau, provides a graphic account of the final moments of Air France Flight 4598. "Conrad zero . . . 4598, you have flames. You have flames behind you," the tower told the stricken aircraft as it was crashing into the seaport's pier.

gencies landing at another nearby airport, the pilot said "too late." The July 25 accident occurred just minutes after takeoff from Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport and killed all 89 people onboard and four on the ground when the plane crashed into a hotel. The report also said a small chip found on the runway may have caused the jet to blow with the resulting debris piercing the passenger plane's fuel tanks and triggering the fire.

The Blue Jay Play

By Katherine Macklem

When Ted Rogers was a boy attending exclusive Upper Canada College in Toronto's wealthy Forest Hill neighbourhood, he didn't play baseball. As an infant, he lost the right in one eye and had no depth perception. But he was a fan and he rooted for the city's minor-league team, the Maple Leafs. The club was owned by Jack Kent Cooke, a local businessman who in the 1940s also owned radio stations and magazines. Today, as it happens, Rogers lives in the Forest Hill house that Cooke once called home. His cable and wireless communications conglomerate, Rogers Communications Inc., owns radio stations and newspapers. And last week, Rogers, now 62, bought the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club. Cooke eventually went on to become a highly-powered

The Blue Jays deal, one of the summer's wonky-keg stories, gives Rogers Communications an 80-per-cent interest in the ball club—a money-losing franchise that has been on a downward slide since 1993, when Joe Carter hit his unforgettable, walk-off home run and skipped around the bases, clinching the Jays' second straight World Series title. After that euphoria, the team, along with the other major-league clubs, was castigated with the players' strike and the subsequent cancellation of the 1994 World Series. Since then, the Jays have struggled with atmospheric players salaries in ever-more-expensive U.S. dollars, stuck intransigence from the fans and benign neglect from its Belgian-board owners, brewer-maker Labatt Breweries of Canada. In 1995—last year, the team lost about \$8 million, which wasn't too dreadful compared with 1996's losses of more than \$40 million. For that, Rogers is paying \$112 million (U.S.), about \$165 million—in stock and cash.

The payroll factor is a double-edged sword. The clubs that pay the highest salaries have the highest costs, but in general they have also ended up winning more—and it's easy to sell tickets and the potentially lucrative broadcast rights for a winner. In 1993, the Jays' payroll was among the highest in the league, at \$65 million. This year, \$71 million, it was mid-range between the lowly Minnesota Twins' \$53 million and the lousy New York Yankees' \$136 million. Whether Rogers or Paul Godfrey, the Jays' new president and chief executive, would say how much new money they'll pump into the team, but they did vow to bring back the glory days. "We didn't buy the team to sit back on replacing the light bulb," Rogers said.

It's not quite right to say Rogers' ambition is to turn the Blue Jays into a profit-making machine, nor that he'd be unhappy about that. What does concern is what the franchise will contribute to the other Rogers businesses—which include cable service, wireless phones, television and radio stations, video rentals. Web sites and magazines (among them *Molson's*, Rogers, which ditched cable TV to 2.2 million homes, wants to put himself up as one of the options). In the long, the Jays provide the content for the Rogers pipelines. But Rogers isn't thinking only about the obvious connec-

In the name of
convergence,
Ted Rogers buys
Toronto's ailing
baseball team

Jays action: plenty of corporate cross-pollination



major-league sports figure in the United States, owning the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and the NFL's Washington Redskins. Rogers, too, wants to own more sports teams. "This city deserves an NFL team," he told reporters last week. He doesn't speculate why he wants hockey's Maple Leafs and basketball's Raptors—or even the Jays' home, the SkyDome—but he indicated he is eyeing other franchises. Yet that's where the similarities stop: between a 21st-century communications baron and an old-style sports mogul, Cooke, who died in 1997, didn't hold on to his media assets and left Canada to develop his sports enterprise south of the border. Rogers fully intends to remain in communications and in Canada. His vision encompasses a massive sports-entertainment-communications empire with plenty of cross-pollination—the buzzwords are convergence and branding—among the par-



Godfrey, Tremblay, Major, Mol, Lazarus, Rogers and Chapin celebrate a sports-entertainment-communications empire

tions. "Do you know that on your wireless phone you're going to be able to have in a few years the Blue Jays, right here," he said, holding up a telephone. "You're going to be able to see them on video." He's also keen on the idea of selling Jays tickets along with, say, cable TV and wireless services—handbags—"all on one bill."

Rogers freely admits he is taking a page from foreign media conglomerates, which are becoming more and more involved in sports. "Those companies can help sports and sports can help those companies," he said. He offered an example: News Corp., Rupert Murdoch's media giant, which owns the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and the Fox network. Time Warner Inc., where Rogers' friend Ted Turner once chairman, is another model, owning baseball's Atlanta Braves and basket-

ball's Atlanta Hawks, and broadcasting games on networks. Turner originally established Walt Disney Co., owner of the ABC network, Hollis Analytics, Calif.'s Angels baseball team and the Mighty Ducks of Hockey. "It seems to make sense if you are in business to be consolidating," said Rogers. "I'd put all the entertainment-communications groups of actors, to Disney or Murdoch or ourselves."

Rogers has one important hurdle to jump before his plan is complete: he wants to gain control of the specialty channel Sportsnet. Last March, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission ordered the CTV network to sell its 40-per-cent share to Sportsnet because it had acquired the competing TSN sports channel. At the same time, Rogers' main rival, Montreal-based BCE Inc., took over CTV. BCE has a

year to unload the holding in Sportsnet, and Rogers, which already holds 30 per cent, has the first right of refusal to buy it.

Rogers says his company "deserves" to own the channel, and feels BCE is taking as time. But buying it is not the issue. The CRTC frowns on such concentration of TV control. "We have a problem having a single carrier owning a specialty channel," said CRTC spokesman Denis Cormier. To get Sportsnet, Rogers will comply with whatever the CRTC wants. "To the best of my knowledge," he said, "they can write the details and I'll sign the cheque. I want to make this happen."

Rogers told Maclean's he's wanted to buy the Jays "for years." But it was only last April that he got serious and contacted Albert Gross, a Rogers director. "Tel called me one afternoon and said, 'Do you know anyone involved in the ownership?'" Gross recounted. Gross phoned his friend Alan Chapin, a New York City lawyer who sits on Interbrew's board and was the Jays' chairman, and Chapin flew to Toronto. A boardroom meeting was convened at Rogers' house, beside his indoor pool, and the process was launched. They thought they might have a deal after the same month, maybe in May. "We were near," Gross said. "Like in any transaction, there were a few hiccups."

There could be more hiccups before Rogers has the conglomerate he's seeking. He will have to have analysts who say he's getting overextended and off focus. The CRTC may throw up some roadblocks. But Rogers, like Jack Kent Cooke in another time, is sure he has found a way to make big-league sports pay off.

FLYING LOW

Facts about the
Toronto Blue Jays:

Estimated 1995 loss:
\$71 million

1993 attendance:
4.1 million

1995 attendance:
2.2 million

2000 attendance so far:
down 15% from '99

Total payroll this season:
\$71 million

New York Yankees payroll:
\$336 million

The troubled state of sport

Like the Blue Jays, many Canadian pro teams have been losing money—and fans

By D'Arcy Jussieh

The Edmonton Oilers do not open the regular hockey season until Oct. 6, but general manager Kevin Lowe and some of his coaches are already putting in long days on the road. Last week, they joined other team officials on pre-season tours of Fort McMurray, Cold Lake and other northern Alberta communities. And there will be more such expansion in the coming weeks, some as far afield as Sault Ste. Marie and Fort St. John, B.C. At each stop, the Oiler management tries to mix a road-trip, meet the mayor, associate with business leaders and visit their predators. "People in these communities think nothing of driving 250 km in 45-degree weather to see a game," says Bill Tolle, the Oilers' vice-president of public relations. "This would not occur in any other country on earth."

Maybe no, but even diehard fan support is not enough to ensure a healthy bottom line. The Oilers have struggled to break even while the other Canadian-based NHL teams, except the Toronto Maple Leafs, are losing money, largely because of escalating salaries and, club officials say, high taxes. Hockey isn't the only sport suffering, as Ted Rogers' acquisition of the unprofitable Toronto Blue Jays baseball team highlighted last week. In Montreal, where brewing giant Molson Inc. has put the half-baked Canadiens up for sale, baseball Expos are raising up losses on the field and the balance sheet. The Vancouver Grizzlies of the National Basketball Association lost \$30 million last year, and expect more red ink this season. Meanwhile, the Toronto Raptors, Canada's other NBA



The Maple Leafs and Canadiens do battle: scuffling sailors and high taxes

team and corporate sibling of the Leafs, finished their season with 19 millions in the final 20 games and an under-clad profit. "We're doing great," says Tom Arosella, senior vice-president of

Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., which controls the Leafs, the Raptors and the Air Canada Centre where they play. "We're focused on going up."

Hockey executives say they face a common problem: whether they operate in big markets—as do the Leafs, Canadiens and Vancouver Canucks—or smaller ones. In the case of the Oilers, Calgary Flames and Ottawa Senators, Player salaries, the largest single expense, have risen rapidly over the past decade due to free agency, and they are paid in U.S. dollars. But the majority of team-salaries—derived through ticket sales as opposed to television rights—are earned in Canadian dollars. "The currency differential," says Canucks president Brian Burke, "is having a catastrophic effect."

There are other built-in disadvantages to being in Canada, he adds. Municipal taxes—about \$3 million annually in the case of the Canucks, \$11 million for



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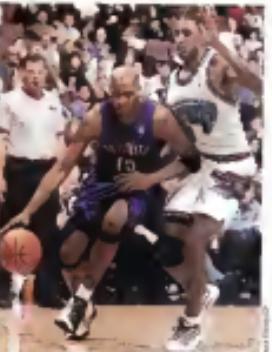
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"When only 5,000 come to the park some nights," the Expos' chief says, "it doesn't bode well."

The Canadiens—*are* much higher than they are south of the border. Canadiens president Pierre Bevila, who has lobbied for change, says the 26 U.S.-based NHL teams are paying a combined \$5.5 million (Cdn.) in local taxes this year. "We're getting whacked over the head," says Bevila. "American governments understand the benefits of pro sports. It's very unfair."

Meanwhile, federal and provincial governments have been reluctant to provide financial assistance—unless Ottawa's \$20-million tax-credit package, which was announced and withdrawn within the space of three days last January after an enormous public backlash. Team executives also say their organizations have had to finance new arenas—Vancouver's GM Place cost \$165 million, Montreal's Molson Centre \$127 million and Toronto's Air Canada Centre \$265 million—whereas



Raptors versus Grizzlies: attendance is crucial

just 6,000 season-ticket holders last year, down from 12,000 in 1995-1996. The team's owner, Seattle businessman John McCaw, has instructed his staff to make hockey work financially in Vancouver, Burke says, but profitability is still several years off.

The桂林 also have an American owner, Chicago billionaire Michael Hinley, who announced a deal to buy the team from McGraw in January for \$231 million. Hinley has told Vancouver he wants to keep the team in their city, but has stipulated that attendance—just over 15,000 last season, or 27th in the 23-year NBA—must improve. He has reportedly negotiated the team lease at GM Place, converting a 15-year agreement into five years guaranteed, followed by two five-year options. After risking the deal for the team in May, he said: "It's important." "I don't run my business to lose \$25 million a year forever."

If there is one Canadian professional franchise whose desperate appears imminent, it is the Expos. The team has been out of playoff contention since late June. Attendance has averaged just 12,000, though that is up from last year's 9,500, the lowest figure in major-league baseball. The Expos are also a rarity in pro sport—a team without any television coverage. Controlling shareholder Jeffrey Loria, a New York City art dealer who owns 35 per cent and is trying to buy out his 13 minority partners, refused to sell TV rights because the Canadian networks offered too little money. As well, plans for a new ballpark to replace the decaying Olympic Stadium have been shelved, at least until the ownership is sorted out. "I am ever the optimist," Loria told Maclean's, "but when only 5,000 or 6,000 people come to the park some nights, it doesn't bode well."

Empty seats, mounting losses and an uncertain future—unfortunately, that has become all-too-familiar story in Canadian pro sports. ■



Loria signs that a departure may be imminent

U.S. state, county and local governments have put up as much as 75 per cent of the money in some places. The impact is apparent on the ice, many officials say, where only three Canadian teams—the Leafs, Senators and Oilers—qualified for last spring's playoffs, but lacked the legs for a serious run at the Stanley Cup.

Despite the red ink, many owners say they're staying put for now. But two NHL clubs, the Senators and the



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A bubble set to burst

The dean of value investors sees no good value at the moment

Sir John Templeton, the founder of the Templeton family of mutual funds, was one of the first fund managers to recognize the value of global investing. The Tennessee-born dragonfly resident of the Bahamas sold his funds to San Mateo, Calif.-based Franklin Resources Inc. in 1992 and now pursues his interests in philanthropy and spiritual issues through the John Templeton Foundation. But at 87, he will follow global markets closely. In Nasdaq recently he discussed the current dangers for us with Eric Kierman, a finance professor at Harvard Business School of Management and a Mackenzie's contributor. Excerpts:

Mackenzie: In 1997, you said no one should invest in the country in which they live. Do you still believe that?

Templeton: No. I exaggerated back then. What I meant is what one should have more than 50 per cent of their assets in the country in which they live. It's just not logical to think that all the best investments will be found in one location. If you look everywhere, you will find lots of good opportunities.

Mackenzie: You, along with Warren Buffet, are as clearly associated with value-based investing as anyone in the world. Do you still follow value-based investing on your personal dashboard?

Templeton: Let's put that on tape. The investing world is rapidly changing. When I first became an investment counsellor in 1937, there were only 17 mutual funds on earth. And then total assets were less than \$1 million. Today, on a given day, funds still in my name can take in as much as a billion in a day! Methods of selecting assets are more sophisticated and more diverse. Up to five years ago, we thought that buying shares at low prices per share relative to earnings, assets and dividends was the right way to do it. But beginning five years ago, we had a psychological

bias, it will be at least as bad as in the Japan Bubble in the early 1990s, when the Nikkei fell from 30,000 to 14,000. Mackenzie: In 1997, you listed Russia, India, Turkey, Ukraine and Brazil. Are these still some of your favourites?

Templeton: Up until two years ago, I could always find some nation where stocks are still cheap. But in the last two years I haven't found one. I've got out of Japan about everywhere. Mackenzie: Do you ever hear you say anything like that before?

Templeton: That's correct. And neither has [PBS interviewer] Louis Rukeyser. He was arrested in January when I said buy bonds, keep bonds!

Mackenzie: Have you always been opposed to putting any wealth into bonds?

Templeton: That has changed.

But it is temporary. What you do is buy bonds, and wait for the opportunity to buy stocks again when they are bargain. I estimate that before the next century is over the Dow will rise above 1,000,000.

Mackenzie: So the global bull market is over?

Templeton: That's a huge question. I've never been good at timing. But I'd say the chances are 90 per cent that it is over already. And it could be 10 years before you see the Nasdaq where it was on the 16th of March.

Mackenzie: What do you consider to be a good representative size of firms for such as any given year?

Templeton: Seven per cent. If you want to know where the market will be in 50 years, start in 1980 and project forward at seven per cent. Population increase has been steady but slow; inflation has been up and down but has averaged three per cent—and I expect that to continue—and productivity gains are accelerating. So when you add them all up, seven per cent for earnings and price of shares is pretty good. And that should hold on a world basis. ■



Templeton: 'Buy bonds and wait for bargains.'

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Deirdre McMurdy

Unions: strife in the ranks

For most Canadians, the principal significance of Labour Day is that it's the last long weekend of the summer. But for those in the labour movement, the week leading up to this year's milestone was fraught with the acrimonious divisions that have become typical of their existence. Furious at the anti-rolling measures taken against her union by the Canadian Labour Congress, the head of the Canadian Auto Workers union, Bert Hanguye, launched a cross-Canada tour to talk directly to local leaders about their "expulsion" from the central body. Meanwhile, CLC executives insisted that the CAW had not, in fact, been booted. And they publicly urged Hanguye not to "needlessly fan the flames of a difficult situation."

Still, that contentiousness has been clearly reflected in the attitude and actions of Canadian workers over the past few months. Under tremendous public and political pressure, Air Canada pilots gradually struck a deal with the company, but still threatened not to ratify it. Independently, some 1,600 physio workers for Air Canada regional airlines, who belong to a different union, were threatening an illegal walkout over the implications of that proposed contract for them. At the eleventh hour, a federal mediator last week helped to avert a potentially disruptive strike by 8,500 Teamsters at Pneusud, the country's leading overnight carrier service. On Aug. 23, just as their company was announcing a splashy \$6-billion takeover of Canadian Communications, more than 7,000 workers at Telus call centres in British Columbia staged a wildcat strike. They were following the example of auto workers at several General Motors plants in Ontario, One, who suddenly walked off the job for two days in mid-August.

Also punctuating the summer were a strike by nickel workers at the Falconbridge facility in Sudbury, Ont., a high-profile job action by service staff at 12 B.C. hotels, and the walkout of 12,000 forestry workers in that province. Teachers in Ontario have spent much of their vacation break threatening to strike in September, as well.

There are several reasons why tensions are running so high. First, the economy has been on an extended expansion, with corporations posting record profits. Workers feel they are being shut out of the prosperity cycle, and several experts concur that they haven't made any real wage gains since 1975. In the first quarter of this year, the average wage hike for unionized employees was 2.5 per cent, lower than the 2.5-per-cent increase in consumer prices. In announcing last week that British Columbia is raising its minimum wage to \$7.60 an hour, Premier Ujjal Dosanjh declared that

workers "must know their hard work means they are climbing ahead, not slipping back."

Another factor is that widespread corporate amalgamations have left many workers feeling insecure about the future of their jobs—especially those in the traditional, so-called Old Economy. While non-union employees in the high-technology field are in big demand and earn top dollar, others are being left behind.

This combination of frustration and insecurity is also evident among and within unions. In order to bolster membership, they have become increasingly competitive, even resorting to such subversive activities as raids on one another's "pure locals," says John Crapo, a labour-studies expert and professor emeritus at the Rotman School of Management in Toronto. "The sad truth is that unions are going nowhere numerically, financially or politically." As they aggressively vie for new members, Canadian unions have become a hodgepodge of diverse factions. The CAW, for example, represents auto workers, naked miners, airline ticket agents and food-services workers, among others. According to Crapo, that has created a "structural mess" in the union movement.

Yet another source of internal strife is the fact that unions adhere to strict seniority policies, and many younger workers are increasingly aggravated by their inability to move ahead of a stubborn bottleneck of aging baby boomers. In a desperate attempt to appeal to younger workers, the CLC recently announced a new "flip-flop" anthem intended to replace the union classic *Solidarity Forever*.

The labour movement has also suffered a setback on the political front. The traditional alliance with the New Democratic Party has worn thin and many labour leaders openly advocate a formal break with the party. At the same time, more governments—most notably the Harper government in Ontario—have introduced legislation aimed at weakening labour's clout. "Fact is, if you're not a force politically, you lose in terms of setting the rules of the game," says Crapo.

Still, it's not always clear what the game is anymore. A growing proportion of Canadians are now self-employed or work in small businesses. Attempts to limit their fixed costs for benefits and related overhead, big business has narrowed a generation of employees who work on a contract or freelance basis, making them almost impossible for labour unions to organize. Clearly, at this year's Labour Day parade, it was more difficult than ever for the various union representatives to march in step, let alone avoid ribbing one another.

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Mutual friends

AGF Management Ltd. elevated itself to Canada's seventh-largest mutual fund firm from ninth by buying Global Savings Holdings for \$438 million in cash and stock. AGF CEO Blake Golding said the merger of the two Toronto-based companies would give AGF the leeway to expand globally.

Air Canada keeps Regional

Air Canada will maintain its near-monopoly on flights to smaller centres after no eligible bidder emerged for Canadian Regional Airlines Ltd., which the flag carrier acquired along with Canadian Airlines. A 60-day bid process produced only one bid, well below a reserve reserve price.

OSC charges Philip

The Ontario Securities Commission accused Philip Morris Corp. and seven former top executives of hiding key facts—including fraud allegations—from investors in 1997. The industrial services firm has since been resurrected and is moving its operations to Chicago from Hamilton.

Repap sale

Finnish forestry giant UPM-Kymmene Corp. bought Repap Enterprises Inc. for \$160 million plus \$1.2 billion in debt. The deal marks the end of the paper company formerly run by high-flying founder George Proby of Montreal. The name is paper spelled backwards.

Bidding for the LSE

The London Stock Exchange became the target of a \$1.7-billion hostile takeover bid by Stockholm's bourse, owned by OM Gruppen AB. The move cast doubt on plans by the LSE to merge with Frankfurt's market to form an exchange called EX.

Wall Street dour

Zurich-based Credit Suisse Group said it would buy U.S. investment bank Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Inc. for \$17 billion and merge it with its U.S. arm, Credit Suisse First Boston. The deal will give Credit Suisse major dealt on Wall Street.



A widening scandal over Firestone tires

Venezuelan officials, taking Bridgestone/Firestone tires used on Ford vehicles, are calling for criminal charges against both companies after a rash of accidents. As a mass recall continued in the United States and Canada, authorities warned that many replacement tires were even more defective than the originals.

A big payoff for the Cisco kids

One of the giants of Silicon Valley, Cisco Systems Inc., paid \$544 million for tiny PostStream Inc. of Woodinville, Wash., launched with a \$250,000 line of credit in 1996 by three partners: Marc Morin, JT Steve Bass, and Brad Sims, 32, together held 20 per cent of the firm, which developed a device allowing cable and telephone categories to deliver broadcast-quality TV and video over high-speed Internet lines. Among other big investor winners were Oracle-bound high-tech mafioso Terry Matthews and many of PostStream's employees.

Financial Outlook

Thanks to government initiatives of cash, things are looking better on the farm. Total agricultural revenues hit a record \$16.2 billion for the first six

months of the year. The biggest boost came from government programs—payments are up 86 per cent from the same period in 1996. After two-thirds of that increase is due to several one-time assistance programs in the hard-hit Prairies. The initiatives help farmers adjust to the elimination of exportation subsidies at a time of low prices. Crop yields continued to fall for the fourth straight year, largely due to lower grain and oilseed prices caused by a glut on the world market. But strong demand for oilseed drove live-stock revenues to record levels as prices rose in the hog and cattle industries.

UP ON THE FARM

| Agricultural sectors affected in the first six months of 1997 | Revenues | Change |
|---|----------------|--------|
| Crop income | \$6.5 billion | +2% |
| Livestock income | \$8.3 billion | +14.3% |
| Government payments | \$1.4 billion | +85% |
| Total farm income | \$16.2 billion | +86% |

The case of the infected Palm

A malicious computer program known as a Trojan horse has infected handheld Palm computers for the first time. The program was discovered as a bootlegged copy of the Liberty 1.1 Game Sync application, a program that allows Palm users to play Nintendo games on their handheld devices. When users downloaded the program from the Internet via their PCs, the Liberty Crack, as it's known, caused all software on the Palm, though the device's calendar, address book and other data were left unscathed.

Swedish programmer Åsaas Ardin said he wrote an early version of the software to clean Pulus of untested programs, but that a friend he had given it to was responsible.



ible for posing a nasty update at an Internet chat channel. Damage appeared to be minimal as long as the Palm user had backup of the erased software. Still, analysts worried such attacks could become more frequent, widespread and costly as handheld computing goes wireless and smart phones that surf the Web come in poachers.



*Ferry with a new
battery off*

so others at Toronto-based Alcanium Power Ltd. chose to have developed a so-called aluminum-air battery capable of powering a telephone for eight hours of talk time and 3.5 days of standby time. Typically, premium lithium-ion batteries are good for up to three hours of talk or three to four days of standby. More research and development is expected to push the aluminum-air battery's capacity to 24 hours of talk and 10 days of standby by next summer, says Rafael Fervi, vice-president of marketing. "We are going to come to market with a very efficient battery," says Jerry. "This will change, I believe, the way consumers use batteries."

Metal-air fuel cells, which can be used in laptop computers and other electronic equipment, are also made of magnesium, zinc and iron that when oxidized—or combined with oxygen—release two electrons per atom. But oxidizing an aluminum atom releases three electrons, meaning aluminum-air batteries require less material to produce the same amount of energy.



Persuasion's playing green check

Plasma power

Panasonic's new plasma display screen could be mistaken for a television. The 42-inch screen, due out later this month, will certainly play favorite TV shows when plugged into a cable operator's digital set-top box or a direct-to-home satellite receiver. But it also has a wide variety of audiovisual input jacks for multimedia presentations, much like a computer screen.

Designed for corporate boardrooms, airports and wealthy early adopters of high-end consumer electronics, the TH-42P8/DHU model outdoes many

Wake up!

Ooh, yuck
Kids love to be grossed out, but at *www.yucky.org*, gross is also educational. The site reveals what causes "eye gunk" and "all you need to know about burping, belching and blackheads." Below the gags are sound explanations of the body works. Unsigned.

Going and going

Cellphone batteries seem to die at the most inopportune times. Help, however, may soon be at hand. Re-

Cool site

Ooh, yuck

Kids love to be grossed out. But at [www.yucky.com](#), gross is also educational! The site reveals what causes "eye gunk" and "all you need to know about burping, belching and blackheads." Behind the gags are sound explanations of how the body works. Under "Fun & Games" is "Revolution Recipes," a zany edible meals with names like *ed egg crystals*, *bleeding heart meatloaf* and *squid sandwich*. Great for birthday parties!

Danilo Hirwinkelka

Ventures

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A champion's heartbreak

A back injury forces a rowing star to withdraw from the Sydney Games

For months, there had been signs that the McBeth Machine was not running at full capacity. In early June, Canadian 32-year-old Olympic rower Marlene McBeth felt a "little twinge" in her lower back, a recurrence of a problem that had plagued her in 1999. Throughout the summer, she put in lackluster performances at European regattas, where she rowed the single sculls. Then two weeks ago, after a cramped 22-hour flight from London to Sydney, Australia—home of the upcoming Olympics—her body seized up when she went for a swim. McBeth had known injury before; top athletes are conditioned to deal with discomfort. Besides, she was just weeks away from the final goal of her illustrious career—rowing in her third consecutive Olympics. But the "little twinge" turned out to be two hundred painful days, and last week a tested McBeth announced that she was pulling out of the Games. "I feel I've dealt with it surprisingly well," McBeth said. Marshall from the Canadian rowing team's training camp near Rockhampton, Australia. "But it may be because the training camp is in a cactus place. Once we get to Sydney with the burns and the cactus, I think it will start to sink in."

For more than a decade, McBeth, with her wild shock of curly hair and forthright talk, has been one of Canada's most recognized and admired winter athletes. A member of the national team since 1989, she spent the first part of her international career rowing in eights and pairs with her teammate Kaitleen Heddle. To some degree, she lagged behind in the shadow of single-sculler Silken Laumann. But McBeth has won 12 Olympic and world championship



McBeth: her rowing attitude has been as commanding off the pool as on it

medals, more than any other Canadian (Laumann took eight). Her most memorable haul was two golds in the pairs and eights at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Even those numbers, however, fail to do justice to her athletic versatility: McBeth is the only female rower in history to win international medals in all four boat classes. "Marlene," said Uwe Bender, the German Australian rowing coach, "is a Canadian rowing."

But for Canadian athletes, she's so much more. Her can-do attitude has been as commanding off the pool as on it. In 1995, she started FONS—the Fund for Olympic Rowers Survival—to raise corporate money for her struggling, cash-strapped teammates who couldn't attract sponsorship. Remarkably, McBeth's altruistic plan, which has raised more than \$150,000, was almost scoffed by the Canadian Olympic Association, which claimed it

owned the copyright of the word Olympic. The COA backed down when McBeth simply refused to change the name. She'll pull out in on other controversies as well. At the 1999 Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg, she chastised Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey when he took a \$290,000 spokesman's fee from the Games' organizers and then did not attempt to qualify to run the 100-m

For a woman so used to talking on any subject, she had to choke out the news that she was dropping out of the Games. She wanted to put the announcement off until she got to the Olympic Village in Sydney, but her injury kept her from training and she knew it wouldn't be long before word leaked out. Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury compensated with

McBeth's tough decision, but says she made the right move. "She has the wisdom to know that the body doesn't repair itself sometimes," said Tewksbury, a gold medallist in 1992. "Having been so decorated as an Olympian, she knows that she doesn't need to add anything more to it, and it would have been foolish to carry on."

McBeth hopes to march into the Olympic stadium and stay at the athlete's village, but may be prevented from doing so under Olympic rules, officially, she's no longer on the team. And the worrier? No name, how included I am, I'll still feel like an amateur." As for her future, she says, "I want to race again. I just want to enjoy my sport again." A late-career comeback? For McBeth, the consummate competitor, anything seems possible.

Jane O'Hara with Rose Karr



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Warning at the waist

Pudgy men may be courting heart disease



Playing any of the classic heart-disease warning signs, such as high blood pressure or diabetes. Despite his recommendation, Dr. Despres based his study of 287 men that showed that only those with waist measurements greater than 36 inches and high triglyceride levels were at increased risk for heart disease.

Despres said he plans to conduct a similar study involving women—who carry fat on different parts of their bodies than men—so similar ones can be developed for them.

Fetal response

In a study that confirms a popular belief, Canadian researchers have found evidence that fetuses can hear sounds from outside the womb by the eighth month of pregnancy. In an article published in the journal *Early Human Development*, researchers at the Queen's University school of nursing in Kingston, Ont., said that in tests in-

volving 186 pregnant women, fetuses responded increased volumes of computer-generated sound with movement and increased heart rates. "What we still don't know," said Barbara Kinsley, the developmental psychologist who led the study, "is what causes heart and how clearly they distinguish sounds." She said the next step would be to determine whether sounds from outside the womb influence fetal development.

Night-vision risk

The Canadian Medical Association has decided that laser eye surgery is a risk factor for driving because it can reduce night vision. Laser surgery, widely used in Canada to correct astigmatism and other vision problems, is listed in the latest version of the CMA guidelines designed to help physicians determine whether patients can safely drive. "We can't stop people from having the surgery, but we can inform them of the problem," said Eustace Carter, a University of Ottawa eye researcher and a member of a CMA advisory committee. Research in Canada and Britain has shown that as many as half of those who undergo laser eye surgery suffer some loss of night vision.

Saving spines

In a breakthrough that could someday enable doctors to repair spinal damage in humans, researchers used cells from pig's noses to stimulate nerve regrowth in rats with severed spines. Reporting in the journal *Neuroscience Biotechnology*, scientists at the Yale University medical school in New Haven, Conn., said by inserting a human gene that stimulates increased tissue response into pig's nerve cells they prevented the rats from rejecting the transplanted tissue. The researchers said microscopic examination of the injured animals showed nerve cells growing in both directions from the point at which their spines had been severed.

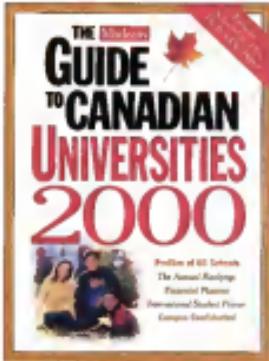
A controversial clinic shuts down

With new hearings scheduled into Victoria's controversial Mastreax Clinic, the founder of the centre for treating eating disorders surrendered his operating licence and sent patients home. The clinic said that, days after three years of investigations and 26 days of hearings last year, two charges that Mastreax staff restrained and force-fed some patients, prompted some from leaving and treated a three-year-old boy for anorexia, despite not being licensed for patients under 13. Health officials ordered the clinic closed as of Jan. 31, but allowed it to continue operating pending an appeal. The latest allegations included charges that some staff members forced patients to drink potentially fatal laxatives.



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Selwyn (left) with Courtney and Garrett, parents since mobility

ister Mike Harris' hard line on education is alienating many parents, as well. "The track record so far," says John Langford, an Ottawa parent of three children, "seems to be one of compromise rather than compromise."

The provincial Conservative government insists that its reforms respond to long-standing concerns over the deteriorating quality of public schooling. Bill 74, it argues, simply brings teaching time up to national standards. And, it says, if teachers supervise extracurricular activities this fall, there will be no need to proclaim the portion of the law that makes them mandatory.

But according to the teachers' unions, it will be anything but business as usual in Ontario this fall. Bill 74 is bound to generate extra marking and preparation, says Earl Munroes, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. Consider that with the rigours of implementing a new curriculum, and many teachers could find it difficult to supervise extracurricular activities. At the very least, he predicts, students will have fewer sports and clubs to choose from due to teachers' lack of time.

While the decision to avoid strike action is aimed at winning the public education war, the thornier concern, concern for high-school teachers begins on Aug. 31, and bargaining has begun in earnest. But teachers and school board officials say the government has set but tied their hands in negotiating collective agreements. For starters, funding is controlled by the province, which has recommended a minimum salary increase of 1.95 per cent this year after up to nine years of wage freezes for some teachers. In addition, legislation strictly defines a teacher's responsibilities, leaving little to discuss at the bargaining table. Munroes, who across the government of adapting a "factory approach" to education, is a scheme that Harris must come up with new funding if he wants teachers to supervise extracurricular activities. "No one wants a strike," says Doug Reynolds, a high-school history teacher in Amherstburg, Ont. "But we can't go without a contract indefinitely."

Poole could be hard to come by

Education

A sullen September

Students are returning to class amid mounting tension

By John Scheffleld

It's almost harvest time on the lush farmland around Ingersoll, Ont., but 15-year-old Courtney Schutte is not focused on the success of the family farm. For her, and her brother, Garrett, 9, the main event this week will be heading down their dairy sideroad back to school. No doubt excited chatter will fill the areas they catch up with friends. But the mood at their schools will be a little less bright. At many schools across Canada, budget cuts and labour union strikes have dimmed teachers' morale.

And for the fourth year running, Ontario has emerged in the epitome of discontent. While union leaders have guaranteed that teachers will be in class this week, most at the high-school level have voted to end if contract talks fail this fall. Once again, parents are wondering what lies ahead. "You never know what's going to happen next," says Leiley Schutte, Courtney and Garrett's mother. "It's exhausting."

Poole could be hard to come by

"Teachers across the country say they are tagging under the burden of heavier workloads and meagre wages," says Poole. In British Columbia, a slowdown is shaping up over the school accreditation process. Launched in the late 1970s, it requires principals, teachers, support workers, parents and students to assess the strengths and weaknesses of individual schools every six years, and to set public goals for improvement. Teachers at 235 of 252 schools slated for evaluation this fall are refusing to participate unless the procedure is streamlined, saying it only adds to an already strenuous workload. Meanwhile, Saskatchewan teachers are negotiating with trustees and government officials in a bid to avert a provincewide strike, primarily over wages. After 10 years without a significant raise, their average salary now stands at \$45,000, putting them in eighth spot among the 13 provinces and territories. In Ontario, high-school teachers are still seeking from Bill 74, a law passed last spring that increases their workload by an extra half-course a year and gives the government the power to force them to supervise extracurricular activities. Par-

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raised teachers across Canada. According to Larry Boos, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, the main item on the agenda of a national meeting of teachers' union presidents in June was the business of confronting the Harris government. Clearly, they are concerned that other provinces will copy Harris' reforms. The move to enforce the supervision of extracurricular activities, says Boos, "was regarded as a blatant assault to the profession. What's happening in Ontario," he adds, "is the biggest immediate concern to teachers around the country."

Many teachers, however, have simply grown weary of the struggle. According to Reynolds, long-term disability claims for stress-related illnesses have never been higher at his school board. Last spring, Jacqueline Keys decided to leave teaching after two years with the Durham District School Board, east of Toronto. As a teacher, Keys typically arrived at school at 7:30 a.m., worked until 6 p.m., headed home to eat, then continued marking and preparing lessons until 11—all for an annual salary of \$31,000. Now a production supervisor at a local automobile plant, Keys, 24, finds her hours are more regulated and her salary is much higher. "People think that teachers come in at 9 and leave at 3, and that's the end of their day," says Keys. "I really enjoyed teaching, but I just found I had no time for myself."

For most parents and students, however, leaving the public school system is not an option. More than anything, they want an end to the bucking, and a return to stability. Self, by refusing to guarantee the supervision of all extracurricular activities, the province's public high-school teachers are throwing down a gauntlet at the government's feet. "What we've got is a festering wound that's been inflamed over the last four years," says Liz Sandal, president of the Ontario Public School Board's Association. "Somehow this fall, we need to find a way to settle the issues and calm things down." But as an unusually cool summer comes to a close, the heat may be put beginning to rise. ■

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Margaret's Museum

By John Benrose

In the corner of an old-fashioned red leatherette booth in a downtown Toronto restaurant, Margaret Atwood is laughing. She has been talking about how difficult it was to start her new novel, *The Blind Assassin* (McClelland & Stewart), and the celebrated author is suddenly and mirthfully amazed at the memory of how the hape grasping at narrative threads that led nowhere. At first she thought the novel would be about her grandmother. But she soon realized there was one little problem: Atwood knew almost nothing about her,

except for the fact that she had been an enthusiastic but terrible knitter of garments for First World War troops. "She couldn't even make a washcloth come out square," Atwood recalls. Later, she found herself focusing on a character who was pointing his toe. But that turned out to be wrong, too. "I thought, no, he'll have to point his toe in some other book, even though it was a very nice shade." And the character disappears with a sustained, quaking nervousness, as though the world were full of disorders that leave her little choice. Today, though, there's a shadow on her enjoyment. As Atwood tells, she keeps massaging a wogot over her right eye: the author

Atwood: In one of the most ambitious social exercises she received, the author spent six days writing a century-long saga of an unusually friendly family.

In her new novel, *The Blind Assassin*, Canada's premier novelist looks back on the 1900s through the prisms of class and gender politics

is prone to migraines, and it's clear that, for her, getting a new book launched can be as strenuous as it is, as writing one.

In the other booth, patrons are rubbernecking to catch a glimpse of the author of *Surfacing*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and 36 other books of fiction, poetry and criticism. At 66, with her still-dark mass of curly hair and hardly batted eyes, Atwood is arguably the most recognizable writer in the country—a situation she claims not to find burdensome since, as she says, "This is Canada. People don't scream and faint when they see you. They walk quietly past you and think 'They're—' and she twists her head around in a wryly accurate imitation of just the sort of discreet gawking going on nearby."

In any case, Atwood is about to endure a whole lot more public exposure. In Canada, the launch of *The Blind Assassin* is only the major event of the fall publishing season, one that will take the author on a cross-country tour for an arduous series of interviews and book signings. And her work will end there. In the past, there has usually been a break of several months between the Canadian and foreign launches of her books, but this year the American, British, Dutch and German editions are coming out almost simultaneously. So when Atwood finishes in Canada, she'll go on immediately to an American tour, followed by a long stint in Europe.

Atwood pines about the effect of that tumultuous blur of hand-hopping on her health, but it's clear that international fame isn't without its costs. She hopes to survive, she says, by taking vitamins, not eating meat and drinking lots of water. "Me and my digestive system are going on tour," she declares. "Which of us will come back?" She also hopes to avoid the repetitive-strain injury that sometimes plagues her when she has to sign 100 many books. Atwood often ends up with sore muscles in her back from all the writing, and a sore left arm from opening and closing hundreds of copies of an open-and-a-close, she says. Is there nothing pleasure, then, about touring? "Sometimes," she allows, "you meet interesting people, but the trouble is, you never can be with them for any length of time."

As for *The Blind Assassin*, Atwood may have rejected the idea of writing it about her grandmother, but the novel is still narrated by an old woman, 82-year-old Iris Griffen. In one of the most ambitious social exercises Atwood has created, Iris—looking back from the vantage point of the late 1990s—spans over the century-long saga of her once-worthy family. The story turns tragic when her younger sister Laura drives a car off a Toronto bridge at the age of 25. The tale shifts back and forth between the fictional southern Ontario town of Port Ticodanga, where Iris and Laura grew up, and Toronto, where they go to live after Iris marries to Richard Gelfer, a prominent industrialist with a penchant for micromanaging other people's lives.

Atwood clearly had much fun researching her book than she did starting it. She gobbed up small-town banter as well as local newspaper social columns, and with her partner, novelist Graeme Gibson, toured southern Ontario searching for an appropriate setting. In the end, Port Ticodanga became a composite of three exceptionally pretty southern Ontario towns: Elora, Paris and St. Mary's. Atwood read a great deal about the early and stories in those places, and any questions about *The Blind Assassin* is likely to set her off on a tangent about old mills (Iris's grandfather owns a lumber factory) or the importance of rivers to a pioneer economy. She is particularly fascinated by the various styles of small-town war memorials and the way they glorified the horrendous losses of war. "I mean, it's far from what their kids ever intended," she says with a chuckle. "They didn't go off thinking, 'Oh goodie, I'm going to be slaughtered for the greater glory of mankind!'"

Atwood's laughter, of course, has a serious note in it, and *The Blind Assassin*—far as its formidable narrative appeal—is driven at least in part by a desire to distract social acolytes. There is a great deal in the book about class, particularly the lower orders, and the upper crust of which Iris is part (the middle class is all but absent). Iris, Laura and Richard lead lives of enormous privilege, but while the women seem conscious and even guilty about this, Richard gloats in his power. In fact, the book is in many ways about the self-interest of the

upper classes—a subject Arwood dates has been taboo in Canada since the McCarthy era, when class-based analysis of social problems fell into disrepute as too dangerously provocative. "We pretend classes don't exist in our society, and of course we're quite wrong about that," she says. Do we make problems for ourselves, then, by ignoring the issue of class? "Think about the upper class," she says. "what are they really? They are really a band of people with a common intention making conditions better for themselves. And so just to take one example—if these people own the newspapers and communication systems, what kind of news are we going to get?" Arwood takes a sip of her cranberry juice: "Maybe it's time to think about the issue of class again."

The novel also explores a favorite Arwood theme: the brutalities placed on women by power structures controlled by men.



The novel offers a gloomy vision of human beings, with their penchant for domination and selfishness, yet it also includes moments of courage and generosity

Since she belongs to a generation that came of age in the 1950s, Iris has a vivid experience of sexual politics in the days before Women's Lib. She is expected to be an ornament to Richard's career—a gilded bed in the cage of his wealth—while Laura, too, must submit to his mounting pressure for control. All this may sound as though Arwood were flogging a dead horse; after all, hasn't the lot of women improved markedly since those days? But Arwood believes the old male urge to dominate is never far beneath the surface. "Read the papers lately," she says with a flush of rhetorical vehemence. "You think of these men who, rather than relinquish control, kill their wives, their children and themselves." A moment later, she expands on her observation: "I really think control is at the heart of it," she says. "Dentists have very high suicide rates, and I think the reason is, if you're drawn to dentistry, you've drawn to my perfect solution. But you cannot make a tiny, perfect solution for your life."

Arwood digs even deeper into her themes of class and sexual repression in another tale, told within Iris's tale like a leviathan within a dhow. Supposedly written by Laura and published after her death, this novel-within-a-novel, which also bears the title "*The Blood Awaken*," focuses on an unnamed married woman who meets secretly with her lover, a fugitive from the anti-communist sentiments of the 1950s. Their trysts are beautifully evoked, with the man's thuggishness and the woman's devoutness coming in a fascinating play de deux of neediness, pain and love. To entertain his lover, the man invents a dark fable about a kingdom he

calls Saki-Nom, a place where the upper classes make blood sacrifice of young women. The hero of this story is a man who has lost his sight after years of forced labour in a rag-weaving factory, and whose superhuman sense of touch enables him to become a professional assassin who can operate on the darkest of nights.

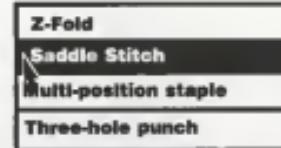
Arwood's masterful rendering of the blind assassin story echoes the cruel will to power that, in Richard's household, it usually hides behind a screen of gentility. And it lends a potentially mythical dimension to the novel. "My ride has many meanings," Arwood says with an enigmatic smile, but she won't explain what they are, as she'll leave that to the critics. In any case, it's certainly clear that by the end of the book the very idea of a blind assassin has become a potent, multi-layered symbol, which stands not only for death itself, but for the random cruelty of life, and for a kind of moral justice—

a balancing mechanism, deep within fate—that not even Richard, for all his worldly power, can escape.

It could be argued that *The Blood Awaken* offers a fairly gloomy vision of human beings, with their penchant for domination and selfishness, for having their own adventures at the expense of others. Arwood allows that several characters in her book act this way. "But in this," she says, "people are really no different from other biological forms. Think of those beesles having their adventures at the expense of others, that Hailie's part," she says, referring to an ongoing infestation there of longhorn beetles. Yet Arwood doesn't think her novel is pessimistic, for it offers several examples of courage and generosity as well. In fact, the author believes human beings are unique precisely because they can rise above the narrow channels of self-interest. "People aren't like mosquitoes," she reasons. "I mean, the mosquito never has a point when he says, 'I'm going to do something nice for the other mosquito.' He never says, 'I'll overcome the fact that I'm going to end up as a meal on the windshield by creating a nice place of mosquito art.'

Arwood chuckles at the very idea of mosquito art and takes another sip of her drink. Her headache seems to have abated, and in the nearby booths, the patrons have grown less inquisitive, accustomed now to the celebrity on above ridge. "Selfishness and fear may be part of our biology," Arwood adds firmly. "But as humans, we have other options." Options such as writing novels as richly layered as *The Blood Awaken* and revealing the between-class distinctions by which we live. ■

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Films

Irony with a side of romance

Nurse Betty is the absurdist tale of a deluded soap opera fan

By Brian D. Johnson

Being unable to tell the difference between the real world and our created far television has become a new kind of American virtue. From Jim Carrey's bizarre galliflity in an interesting TV star in *The Truman Show* to the mass delusion of viewers doing on the cartoon "reality" of *Seinfeld*, native suspicion of disbelief is pop culture's reigning fiction. You can wear it both ways, like a reversible parka: enjoy the fantasy at arm's length and view the experience with cynical superiority.

New Jersey is no lame dramedy. This dark comedy about a snap-open fan who falls through the looking glass is reminiscent of *Twister*, *Being There*, *Seberg*, *John Malkovich* and *To Die For*—a fable about a character lost on the hazy divide between life and death. Throw in a hair-raising slush of Tarantino violence—a stabbing, no less—and *Nurse Betty* starts to look like yet another prequel for an unany overdone. But the movie takes an unexpected turn. Just when you think the joke is wearing thin and准备 to dismiss it as a clever but shallow conceit that cannot possibly be sustained, *Nurse Betty* turns into something altogether different, and weirdly engrossing—a shot in the arm for the aging formula of romantic comedy.

Reinie Zellweger, who has made a career of playing earnest heroines—from the ingénue *Jerry Maguire* to the da of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*—stars as Betty, a waitress in small-town Kansas Neighbors by her co-salesman love of a husband, she looks for love in a daytime soap. One night, while watching a taped episode, she witnesses the brutal murder of her husband (Aaron Eck-



Stock (left), Freeman, Zellweger, director Neil LaBute goes beyond cynicism

hard) by two hit men (Morgan Freeman and Cheri Oteri). The waitress jobs her into a new, deluded identity. Betty comes to believe she is the nurse once played by Dr. David Stavell, her adopted son. Determined to reunite with him, she has the road and truck her down at the Los Angeles "hospital" where the show is produced.

With her scratched-up eyes, always so intensely fixed on the creation at hand, Zellweger pulls off a challenging role with unswerving conviction. Greg Kinnear is immediately cast as George, the matriarchic saint who plays the doctor—and mistakes Betty for an exceptional midwife. And as the oddball hero who runs her to Los Angeles, Freeman and Rock make a hilarious duo—Freeman as a sentimental fool, and Rock as his impulsive protégé.

Nurse Betty picks up all the loose threads of American independent film—from visceral shock to absurdity—and bundles them with a flair for comic melodrama reminiscent of Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar. Remarkably, the movie was directed by Neil LaBute, who established himself as the most cynical filmmaker in America with his first two features, *In the Company of Men* and *The暴*.

party of Mrs. and Mrs. Friend & Neighbor With Nurse Betty, the first of his features that he has not written, LaBute salvages genuine romance from the cyncism—unclear by enough provocative cruelty to prove its hard-gone soft.

For those who prefer their soap open straight up, *The Way of the Gun* offers a grisly mix of carnage, romance, back-room surgery and painful dialogue. Directed by Christopher McQuarrie—who won an Oscar for writing *The Usual Suspects*—this contemporary western serves as a tough-guy initiation rite for Hollywood pony boys Ryan Phillippe and Benicio Del Toro. They play desperados who kidnap a very pregnant surrogate mother—Julianne Moore, plowing new depths of degradation—and try to exact a ransom from the gangster who has hired her. This movie, too, features a doctor who can at the only plays one on television. And for stories whose sense of irony is refined enough to enjoy watching a woman undergo a castration section at a Mexican villa while a bloody shoot-out rages around her, *The Way of the Gun* is seen the hours. Others may feel trapped in a post-Tarantino hell, suffering for *Nurse Betty*.



People Edited by Shanda Drasal

Woods' record-setting mastery of
three of golf's majors

fewer than half the scheduled PGA Tour events, that is an attraction. The 24-year-old Californian is single-minded in his pursuit of history, and he has already made plenty of it this summer. With this seventh record-setting victory at the U.S. and British opens and the PGA championship, and his 1997 Masters triumph, Woods joined an elite club. Previously, only Ben Hogan,

Gene Sarazen, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player had ever won all four major championships—golf's grand slam—in their careers.

"To be mentioned in the same breath as those guys makes it very, very special," Woods says. And with a victory in the Open at Gleneagles Golf Club this week, Woods would match the feat of another legend, Lee Trevino, who is the only player ever to hold three national open championships in a single year, including Canadian. Despite a strong field that includes four of the top 10 money-winners on tour this season, Woods is the prohibitive favorite in Oakville. He can hit his drives the length of three football fields and he is deadly accurate. He also has won eight Tour events this year, and has already collected nearly \$1 million (U.S.) in prize money; breaking his own single-season record for tournament earnings by more than \$1 million. But the scariest part for his opponents is that Woods is especially tough to beat when a piece of golf's history is within his reach.

He shoots, he scores

Tiger Woods, the hottest athlete on earth, searches for history at the Canadian Open

Oakville, Ont., may not be ready to be the centre of the sports universe, but it will have to adjust this week. Tiger Woods is going there to play in the Bell Canadian Open, and where Woods goes, a media blitz follows. Normally solar golf tournaments are suddenly enlivened with satellite-linked TV trucks, camera crews and reporters all trying to get up close and personal with The Most Famous Athlete on Earth, successor to Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan. Woods draws big crowds and bigger TV ratings, and in return, he has an endorsement portfolio worth an estimated \$150 million.

The Open got lady. It is the third-oldest tournament still being contested in North America, and to Woods, who plays



Two Dublins for Donoghue

For someone only 30 years old, Eimear Donoghue has already written a considerable body of work—capped by her new book *Snowwoman*. The critically acclaimed novel takes its title from an 18th-century wood for a loose dress and—by extension—a loose woman. It's the compelling title of Mary Swander, child prostitute and murderer, based on an actual 1783 murder confession in Wales. The Dublin-born Donoghue, winner of the 1997 American Library Association Guy Léman and Bechtel Book Award for her novel *Hool*, moved here in 1988 and now makes her home in London, Ont. There, she lives with Chris

Ruddiman, her partner since 1994 and a French professor at the University of Western Ontario. The author, the youngest of eight children, her elder brother, David, is Ireland's ambassador to Russia—has been in Ontario long enough to have seen a bookstore advertise her as a Canadian writer. "I was delighted," she says, pleased with her new country's "open

Donoghue: prolific writer

definition" of itself. Nor do Canadians "go on and on about being Irishmen." I'm so impressed—I get very sick of that in Ireland." Now Donoghue, for the first time, has turned to a Canadian setting. Her next novel will take place partly in Dublin, Ont., a hawker 50 km north of London, and partly in the original Dublin. And, in a neat reversal of cliché, Donoghue laughs, the boozing Irish capital "will be the modern place and the New World town the bacchanal."

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Ten characters in search of a million

Susan Neff had been waiting for this phone call her entire life. Answering trivia questions, says the 46-year-old homemaker from Mississauga, Ont., in "the one thing, I happen to be really qualified to do." So she was shelled to learn she would be a consultant on the Canadian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, taping in New York City on Sept. 7. Neff says that when she was a child, her father hosted his children nightly around the dinner table.



Susan Neff (left);
consultant who grew
up on trivia

"I had indignation raised of the one," she says, "because it was so untrue."

Neff, an avid reader who has a BA in psychology from the University of Waterloo, is one of 10 contestants—one from Victoria, two from Regina, four from Ontario and two from Quebec—who will vie for \$1 million during two one-hour segments that CTV will air on Sept. 13 and

16. The finalists were randomly selected, along with two alternates, from the 3,761 people among 755,937 callers last month to CTV's quiz hotline who provided correct answers to five questions. The other contestants include a lawyer, a computer designer, a candle jar manufacturer and a graduate student in mathematics. Shannon Sullivan, 24, who attends Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., has been playing Trivial Pursuit since age 10. "My parents used to make fun of me for being such a trivia junkie," he says. "Now I'll have the last laugh."

All 12 contestants and alternates get to bring someone with them for the New York taping with host Pamela Wallin. Neff, who will be accompanied by the youngest of her two daughters, 20-year-old Elizabeth, has been poring over Canadian almanacs and encyclopedias for up to five hours a day to prepare for *Millionaire*. "Did you know that the piano roller was invented by a Canadian in 1909?" she asks, gleefully adding, "I find that so intriguing. I'm having a great time studying—and this will be my first top anywhere outside Canada except for a childhood trip to Detroit!" Saffosso, meanwhile, is working out which friend should call for his "Milestones" and looking forward to his first visit to New York. "I'm taking my father because he's been to the city before, and he'd also make the least useful lifeline out of anyone I know."

Television

Boob-tube shrink, Web roommates

The rapidly expanding universe of reality TV now includes the analysts, coaches, Starting on Sept. 11, at least 154 North American TV stations and cable networks will begin airing *HouseCalls*, which features Toronto

psychiatrist Irvin Wolfson counseling families. Titled episodes, filmed in August, follow Wolfson as he helps Los Angeles-area families he will travel far from segment) deal with everything from abusive mothers-in-law to rebellious teenagers. Wolfson, 48, whose television career on psychiatry appears in *The Doctors*, participated in a similar show involving Canadian patients for three seasons between 1990 and 1994, but it aired in only a few markets. His new

TV client base is less obscure, he says. "Getting people to talk in open detail about intimate aspects of their lives is not hard in America." Video voyeurists will get another source of gratification this fall with *1877TV*: The Web channel, chronicling in real time a year in the lives of eight men and women sharing a downtown Toronto loft, launches in mid-October. A nighty-half-hour broadcast version will also air on—what else?—The Life Network.

Pop Movies

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. <i>Bring It On</i> (1875/1) | \$2,284,800 |
| 2. <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> (1885/1) | \$1,750,198 |
| 3. <i>Die Hard 3: With a Vengeance</i> | \$1,182,111 |
| 4. <i>What Lies Beneath</i> (133/1) | \$1,102,228 |
| 5. <i>Melvin & Howard</i> (233/1) | \$884,000 |
| 6. <i>The Replacement</i> (244/1) | \$447,541 |
| 7. <i>Agent Carter</i> (114/1) | \$412,874 |
| 8. <i>Armistice Day</i> (244/1) | \$369,931 |
| 9. <i>Double Edge</i> (230/1) | \$301,240 |
| 10. <i>Blowin' in the Wind</i> (148/1) | \$191,139 |

Top movies in Canada, ranked according to box office receipts during the seven days that ended on Aug. 8. (In brackets: number of screens still showing.)

Source: Entertainment Weekly



Source: imaginary psychiatrist

Psycho-dude

How would Hollywood cope without the serial killer, that mainstay of the big screen? The lone assassin in *The Winter's Tale*, the story of a shell-shocked FBI agent (James Spader) who moves to Chicago from Los Angeles to regroup, only to find that in L.A. psychopath (Kurtwood Smith) has followed him there.

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Entertainment
Notes

| Best-Seller

Fiction

- THE BURN GAZAHLI, Hengst (2011) [2]
- THE BEAN AND THE DRAGON, Jim Cherry [2]
- WINTER SAYING, Roseanne Rokke [2]
- AKELA EATING, Michel Gondry [20]
- DISGRACE, BISSONNETTE, Kelly (2011) [2]
- NO SADIST WANTED, Kristin Hannah [4]
- THE BROWNING'S ERIN, U.S. S. Fyrk (2011)
- POSSIBLE CARE ISSUE, Steven Lee Burke [4]
- THE PARISIAN, Enid Arlitt (2011) [2]
- MURKIN WE WERE, DIPALMA, Anna (2010) [2]

Nonfiction

- 1. **THE DAY IN BOSTON**, John Laffin (2)
- 2. **WHAT'S NEW**, Scott Rodes (2)
- 3. **IN A SUMMERLESS COUNTRY**, Michael O'Brien (2)
- 4. **THESEUS AND MOSES**, Michael Almere (2)
- 5. **FROM GARDEN TO HOSPITAL**, Jeanne Loring (2)
- 6. **SEED-SHARING CANNING**, Jeffry Christian (2)
- 7. **WHAT BOUGHT MY CHERRY**, Spanish Mission (2)
- 8. **LITTLE SAIGON**, Jennifer Brown (2)
- 9. **HOW TO READ A HISTC**, Christopher Hill (2)
- 10. **SECRET CONFIDENTIAL**, Anthony Swofford (2)

Terry Fox's 20th

To mark the 20th anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, McEuen & Slesinger has issued a revised edition of *Terry Fox: His Story*, by Abousleiman. The journal's Leslie Slesinger Fox had his right leg amputated above the knee because of cancer in 1977, when he was 18. On April 12, 1980, he left from St. John's, Nfld., on a cross-country run to raise money for cancer research. Fox had to endure pain, hot sun drives and bad weather, but he also won growing support for his quest. By the time he reached Ontario, the entire nation was applauding his 26-mile days. Fox had no way when the cancer returned in September, 1980, and died the following year. But in Slesinger's book's postscript, he helped raise more than \$24 million, and Terry Fox must have caused countless millions more to cancer research.



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Allan Fotheringham

A case of Olympic envy

One of those magazines that know about such things reports that 48 per cent of the malcontents in Canada live in Toronto.

One can just hear a chorus of whoops from Danholder and Chacasse and Thain, crying: "They deserve it!" Love for Hayron has not yet permeated the land, especially with its recent mania of wanting to become a city-state, sort of on the same scale as Sparta.

Toronto already is quite an exciting place, amazing in the "peculiar" sense because it thinks it is much more important than it really is. In geography, it is flatter than Regina, the only protruding feature being the wallet of the boy's lunch at the Toronto Club, decking these eyes at the door.

Its current fit of hubris in the blithering nonsense that it is a serious candidate for the 2008 Olympic Games—now that it has gone on to the shortlist that includes Osaka, Japan, Istanbul, Paris and Beijing.

The sudden rash of madness, as theaway powers of the world gather in Sydney for festivities run by NBC, is led by the goofy nudge called mayor, one Mel Lastman, who is an embarrassment when let off the leash and allowed abroad. His passport should have been cancelled years ago, on the simple grounds of bad taste.

His Melness finds a mimic band of dreamers in Australia, although the Toronto mobsters will not learn the true lessons of life until next summer in Moscow, where the 2008 winner will be announced.

What the Toronto gang does not realize (there is nothing more insular than a large city like New York) is that the Olympics has nothing to do with sport and is now based on politics—politics to be more precise.

You will understand that it has nothing to do with sport when, on Sept. 25, you watch on your screen the final of the 100-m. At the starting line will be the finest specimens of speed gathered from round the globe.

John Owens, who won four gold medals in Hitler's 1936 Olympics in Berlin, was perhaps five feet, nine inches and weighed 155 lbs., asking why? All the lads on the starting line in Sydney, your screen will reveal, look like they have been recent graduates of the Charles Atlas school of springing and have taken powerhouse drugs from Joe Weider, a hunk from polyester who invented bodybuilding.



Ben Johnson, as we all remember through our Seoul years, approached the starting line in an ambulatory diagnosis. He had muscles on his muscles. Jose Owens couldn't have lifted his pharmacy bill.

I digress. Just as the Olympics now have nothing to do with sport, they have nothing to do with the visual innocence displayed by Mel and his mates. They are rated by the relatives of what Marshall McLuhan predicted the world would be named into—a global village.

After our lame world won Canada—Lester Pearson and his Nobel Peace Prize and all that—was actually regarded as a good "second power," despite our minuscule population on the global scale. It's why we're in the G-7 grouping of industrial powers, with such puny heavyweights as the United States, Germany, Britain and France.

When the Europeans insisted financially wobbly Italy be included, Washington—fearing it would be overshadowed by the Europeans—insisted that Italy would be allowed only if long-time Canada could be included—ensuring a comatose friend to the Yanks.

The G-7 concept, of course, is ridiculous. Why should little Canada be in there, let alone wobbly Italy, when China is outside the fence?

India? Why not Beau? Iwan Nigeria?

It's familiar with the Olympics Geopolitics rules. The same people who resent such lightweights as Canada and Italy being given the cachet of the G-7 demand their overwhelming populations be given due concern. The preoccupation of the International Olympic Committee, whose only qualification for admittance is gold, have bowed to geopolitics.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC man who has ruled the confederacy of cashmere blue blazers for two decades—almost as long as the ideologic Baron de Coubertin, inventor of the modern Olympics—knows that China has never hosted the Olympics. Which is why Beijing—lost by two minus veats to Sydney last time around—is a crutch for 2008.

This dispassion, which, to you know, never keeps a soccer away from the media, will soon reveal the host city of the 2012 Olympics. It will be Johannesburg (Cape Town being too small to be noticed by Olympic Coca-Cola). Compton?

Africa has never hosted the Games. Toronto, you are naive beyond belief.

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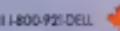
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